BUSINESS / B1

Gov't moves sale of SMC, Meralco stakes to 2008

ENTERTAINMENT / F1

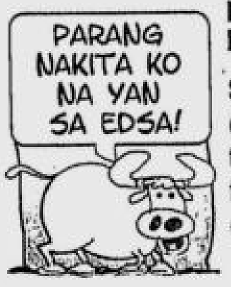
Despite nude photo, Fil-Am star gets Disney Co. support

SPORTS / A29

Ateneo Eagles nip La Salle Archers in the nick of time

IS THIS WEEK YOUR CHANCE TO SAY YES?
see special section

Apec steel fences rented from Bayani?


PARANG NAKITA KO NA YAN SA EDSA!

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA (Via PLDT)—The fences looked strangely familiar, except for the color.

Even President Maca-

APEC/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, September 10, 2007 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 274 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

9-hour Filipino film cited at Venice festival

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

LAV DIAZ'S NINE-HOUR "KAGADANAN SA Banwaan ning mga Engkanto (Death in the Land of Encantos)" won the Golden Lion Special Mention award in the Horizons (Orizzonti) Documentary section of the

9-HOUR/ A19

Apec leaders push global trade talks to final phase

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—PACIFIC RIM leaders yesterday pledged their political will and flexibility to bring faltering global trade talks into their final phase this year, wrapping up their annual summit that also struck an agreement on tackling global warming.

"There has never been a more urgent need to make progress" in world trade negotiations, according to a final statement released by leaders of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum, which includes trading powers China, Japan and the United States.

Negotiations in the so-called Doha round resumed in Geneva last week on the basis of two new proposals to break a deadlock between rich and poor nations over how much to cut barriers in agricultural and industrial trade.

The Doha round was launched in the Qatari capital in November 2001 to help poor countries improve their lot through freer trade rules.

Negotiations have stumbled over reducing farm subsidies in the United States, Europe and Japan, and scaling back industrial tariffs in emerging markets like China, India, Brazil and South Africa.

Apec leaders said the overall success of the WTO negotiations would depend on early progress in bridging gaps in those two critical areas.

"We pledge the political will, flexibility and ambition to ensure the Doha Round negotiations enter their final phase this year," the leaders' statement said. "We call on our WTO partners to join in this vital effort."

APEC LEADERS/ A8

RP, China to review broadband project

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

PRESIDENTS Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines and Hu Jintao of China shake hands before the start of their bilateral talks at the Sofitel Hotel in Sydney.

Cabinet to take up deal and recommend action

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SYDNEY (VIA PLDT)—ON THE SIDELINES OF THE ASIA-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit here, President Macapagal-Arroyo talked with Chinese President Hu Jintao yesterday about the controversial national broadband network (NBN) project whose $329-million contract was won by China's ZTE Corp.

The meeting, called at the last minute, came amid calls from leaders of the Philippine Congress to scrap the ZTE contract, which was allegedly attended by bribery and overpricing.

The day before, Ms Arroyo said she would await the recommendation of her officials before deciding what to do about the NBN contract.

At the meeting between the Philippine and Chinese leaders, there was no specific mention of the ZTE contract, only the NBN project, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

The NBN is envisioned to establish a seamless connectivity of landline, cellular and Internet services among all government offices nationwide.

Bunye said the two leaders had a brief discussion on the NBN project under the subject of ODA (official development assistance).

"She assured President Hu that she would discuss the matter with her Cabinet. In the meantime, she suggested that Trade Secretary Peter Favila and Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai work together to resolve the issue. President Hu agreed with President Arroyo's suggestion," Bunye said.

China and the Philippines signed a $1.8-billion loan agreement on Aug. 25 in Makati.

Favila said last week that $400-million of the loan facility to be extended by China Export-Import Bank was not specifically intended for any project. He said it was up to the Philippines to "nominate" a project for funding.

RP, CHINA/ A8

ANTISMUGGLING DRIVE

Is there a Palace bagman in Subic?

(First of two parts)

-TEAM *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT USED to be the United States' largest naval base outside the mainland. Security there used to be tight and impregnable.

But under the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, such things as smuggling cars—and oil—on a significant scale cannot even be stopped.

The activity goes on under the watch of the Bureau of Customs, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, two presidential task forces, the Land Transportation Office and sundry police and military groups.

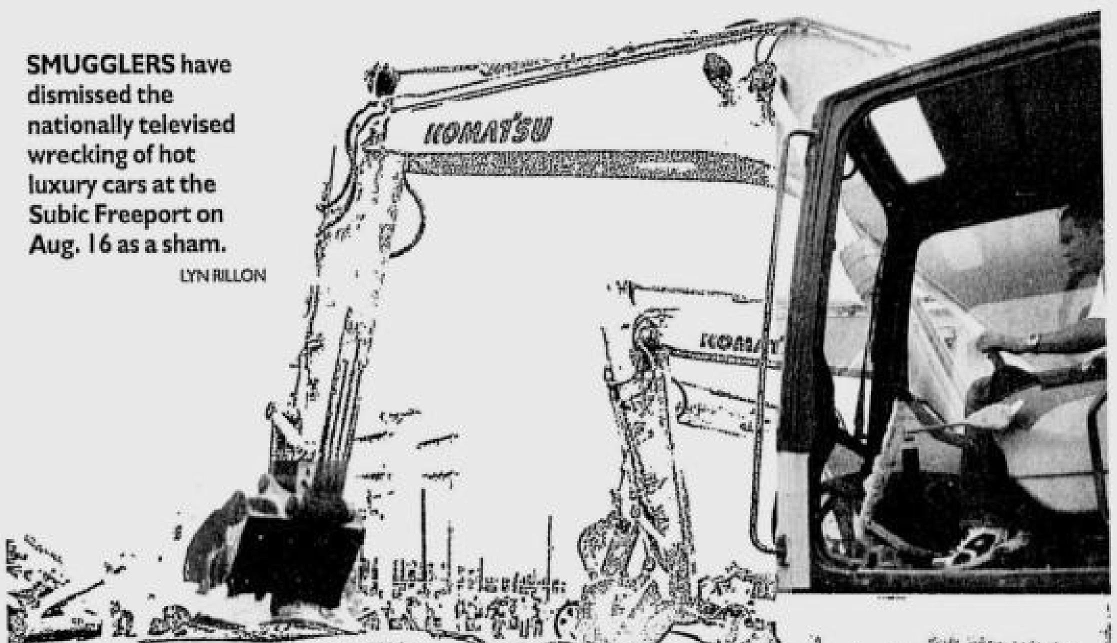
One concerned Subic official, who requested anonymity, says in a letter to the INQUIRER that included documents on results of official investigations:

"The glaring fact is one of Malacañang's favorite generals earlier dispatched to Subic to check on smuggling activities ironically ended up coddling the smugglers himself.

"By virtue of his position, this 'bagman' of Malacañang has always been involved in the thick of the investigation whenever a smuggling case comes up, as with the gas/oil fuel smuggling and the recent luxury cars controversy.

"No matter how much effort and vigilance honest free port officials might exert, the problem of smuggling can never be solved if the culprit is one of them."

IS THERE A PALACE/ A4



SMUGGLERS have dismissed the nationally televised wrecking of hot luxury cars at the Subic Freeport on Aug. 16 as a sham.

LYN RILLON

Goods cannot be released without official knowledge

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—WHAT is the extent of car smuggling at the free port? Who are the smugglers and the government officials they are allegedly conspiring with?

These questions came up after three backhoes destroyed 18 cars here on Aug. 16 in a nationally televised show of resolve to stop the smuggling of cars that has deprived the nation of billions of pesos in tax revenues.

Retired Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, senior deputy administrator for operations at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), estimates that out of

GOODS/ A4

Senate has been nemesis of both Estrada, GMA

By Amando Doronila

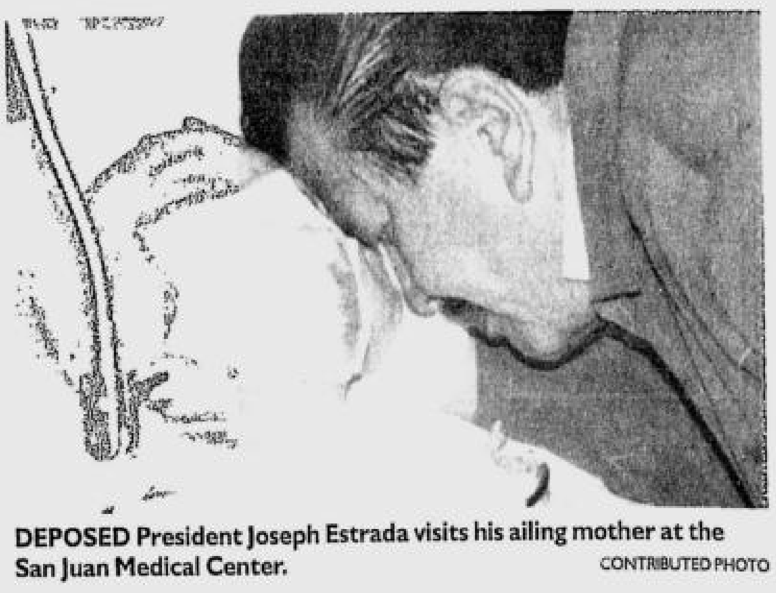
ANALYSIS

JUST AS THE SANDIGANbayan brings closure to the six-year trial of the P4-billion plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada, the Senate has reopened hearings on the contentious "Hello Garci" wiretapped tapes.

Based on fresh developments, the hearings promise to be open-ended.

This time, President Macapagal-Arroyo is on the carpet, accused of attempting to tamper with the 2004 presidential election returns.

SENATE / A8



DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada visits his ailing mother at the San Juan Medical Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Erap sees 102-yr-old mother in hospital bed

By Jocelyn R. Uy
and Kristine L. Alave

HE CAME TO ASK FOR HER blessing before confronting his fate. There were no tears shed, no words uttered. Only a brief gaze passed between them before she fell back to sleep.

"Mama, mama, *si Joseph ito* (This is Joseph)," the country's once most powerful man called out to his mother several times, trying to rouse her back to consciousness.

This was how a close aide described yesterday's private

ERAP SEES/ A19

EZ2 30 10 | Mid-Day 9 4 7 | Evening 0 0 8

SUERTRES

(All in exact order)

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

4 9 10 26 30 41

P10,536,555.60

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY RHEA BLANCAS, PDI RESEARCH/09/09/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Senators want 'Garci' probe halted

Congressmen look into charging Doble with perjury for lying to them

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AFTER GANGING UP ON THE EX-MILITARY INtelligence agent who admitted leaking the "Hello Garci" tape, administration senators yesterday called for the scrapping of the Senate hearing on the wiretapping scandal until the opposition came up with a more credible witness than former T/Sgt. Vidal Doble Jr., formerly with the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

"As far as I'm concerned, there is no need for another hearing," said Sen. Joker Arroyo, who had described Doble as a "polluted source" and a "perjured witness."

Sen. Richard Gordon, another administration senator, wanted Doble jailed for perjuring himself after he changed his testimony at the House of Representatives (where he claimed he was not a wiretapper) and at the Court of Appeals (where he said he did not fear his Isafp superiors), when he appeared at the Senate last Friday.

At the same time, administration congressmen are looking into taking legal action against Doble for lying in the House probe of the "Hello Garci" controversy in 2005.

Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy said Doble's testimony at the Senate on Friday contradicted what he had told the congressmen under oath two years ago.

"The House cannot let this pass," Uy said. "Otherwise, anyone can peddle tales and parade liars as witnesses in our investigations. That will put to question the credibility of our future investigations and their results."

Doble, however, had explained away the contradictions in his statements as being the result of threats to his life and that of his family at the time.

Presidential legal adviser Sergio Apostol has also pressed for charges against Doble.

Stop stonewalling

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, however, yesterday urged Malacañang to stop its stonewalling and allow Remedios "Medy" Poblador, identified as a close aide of President Macapagal-Arroyo's, to appear at the Senate and explain her role in the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal cover-up.

This after Doble told the senators on Friday that Poblador had offered to help his family when they met at Camp Aguinaldo where he was taken by Bishop Socrates Villegas from San Carlos seminary where he had sought refuge with former National Bureau of Investigation director Samuel Ong to whom he had given the master copy of the "Hello Garci" tape.

Gordon said that under the Revised Penal Code, the crime of perjury or the act of knowingly making untruthful statements under oath on a material matter is punishable by imprisonment of at least six months .

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., however, said Doble did not commit perjury when he changed his House testimony.

"It is not unusual for a witness to change his testimony. As a lawyer who has long been practicing criminal law, I can say that a witness may give a new version of his testimony depending on the circumstances," Pimentel said.

He, however, concurred with the administration senators who said that "Doble's revised testimony would carry more weight and be more believable if there were other witnesses to corroborate it."

Next hearing Friday

The Senate committees on defense and security, accountability of public officers and investigation, and constitutional amendments are scheduled to hold another hearing on Friday.

But Malacañang has indicated it would invoke Executive Order 464 to prevent Cabinet and military officials from testifying in the Senate without the President's permission.

Pimentel said the Senate would definitely summon Poblador who was identified by both Doble and Bishop Villegas as having played a role in the alleged Palace moves to stop the wiretapping exposé from getting out of hand.

The "Hello Garci" tape purportedly contains wiretapped conversations between President Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on a one-million vote margin for the former over Fernando Poe Jr. in the 2004 presidential polls.

Lacson said more questions needed to be answered now that Malacañang's role had been bared by Doble, and Bishop Villegas in a letter.

"I urge Malacañang to bring Medy Poblador out to bare the truth. (Cabinet Secretary Ricardo) Saludo's statement that Medy acted on her own in misleading the bishop that a military assault on San Carlos seminary was imminent on June 13, 2005, simply insults the intelligence," said Lacson. *With a report from Christian V. Esguerra*

Medy and me not only ones who ride with GMA—Lupita K.

By Chrisitine O. Avendaño

WELL-KNOWN TELEVISION director Lupita Kashiwahara said yesterday she was amused when she heard opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson say that she and presidential aide Remedios "Medy" Poblador were the only ones allowed the privilege of riding in the presidential car with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Kashiwahara, who serves as the media consultant of the President, said Lacson got his information all wrong when he made the disclosure at last week's new Senate probe of the "Hello Garci" controversy.

On the contrary, she said, many Cabinet members had ridden in the presidential car with Ms Arroyo.

Likewise, in the President's provincial sorties, local officials ride with her from the airport to wherever they are going, according to Kashiwahara, a sister-in-law of former President Corazon Aquino.

She cited as an example the recent visit of Ms Arroyo to Capiz, where she and Sen. Mar Roxas both rode in the presidential car.

"If Lacson can get his information wrong here, what other information did he get wrong and dish out?" Kashiwahara said in a phone interview.

At the first joint hearing of the "Hello Garci" controversy last Friday, Lacson identified Poblador, an undersecretary doing legislative liaison work, as a personal confidante of the President after former military intelligence agent Vidal Doble said a certain "Medy" was the one responsible for his departure from the San Carlos seminary in Makati City where he had sought refuge, and consequently, his failure to disclose his full involvement in the recording of the "Hello Garci" tapes.

It was Balanga Bishop Socrates Villegas who revealed in a letter to the senators that Poblador had called him up to ask his help in getting Doble out of the seminary to prevent the military from having to do the job.

With Poblador arranging for the bishop's trip to Manila in a helicopter, Villegas proceeded to the seminary and asked Doble to leave. His family, he told him, was waiting for him at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

Coming to the defense of Poblador, Kashiwahara expressed sadness over the way she has been portrayed.

"Medy is a very hard-working person, extremely honest, low profile and she doesn't toot her horn," Kashiwahara said.

"I see Medy almost every day and have not heard her mention any involvement in that incident two years ago," she said.

She said she spoke to Poblador after Doble and Lacson's revelations and the latter was "cool and calm" about it.

"Obviously, she did not regard her action in any negative way," Kashiwahara said.

As to who the President's confidantes were, Kashiwahara said: "From what I've seen and observed, the President has faith and confidence in all the people she appoints. That's her style of governance."

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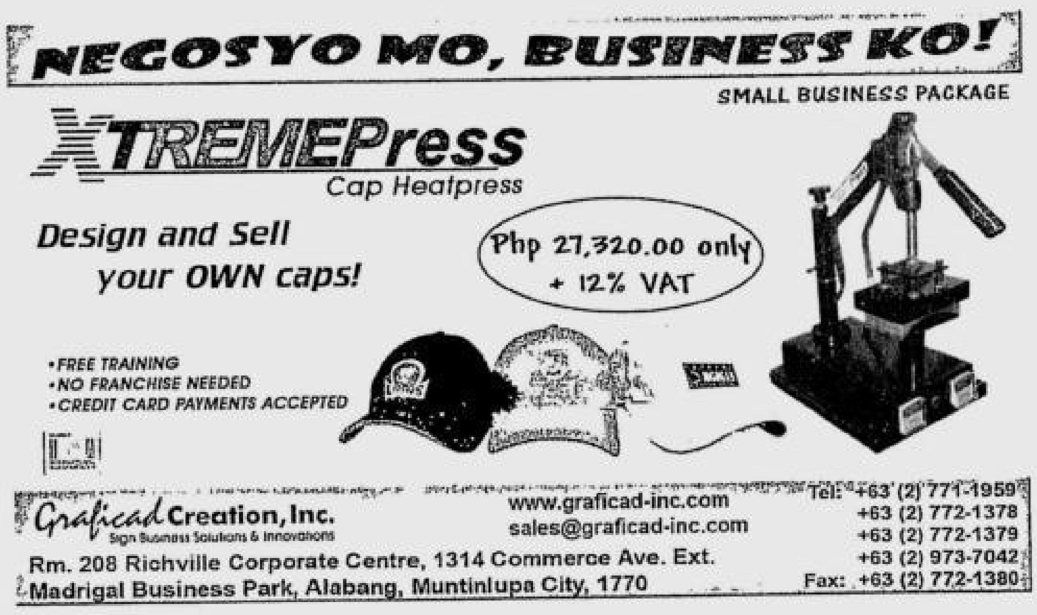
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Justice Hector L. Hofileña
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3 credit units of Alternative Dispute Resolution
Dean Custodio O. Parlade
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Prof. H. Harry L. Roque, Jr.
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Atty. Jose Manuel I. Diokno
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1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
2 credit units of Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy
Hon. Selma P. Alaras
3:15- 6:15 p.m.
3 credit units of Updates in Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence
Dean Pacifico A. Agabin
☐ October 13, 2007 A.M.
8:00-10:00 a.m.
2 credit units of Trial and Pre-Trial Skills
Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
10:15 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.
2 credit units of Legal Ethics
DCA Zenaida N. Elepaño
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1:00- 3:00 p.m.
2 credit units of Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy
Justice Magdangal M. De Leon
3:15- 6:15 p.m.
3 credit units of Updates in Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence
SEC Dir. Justina F. Callangan
☐ October 27, 2007 A.M.
8:00-10:00 a.m.
2 credit units of Legal Ethics
Prof. Eugenio H. Villareal
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2 credit units of MCLE Committee Prescribed Subject
Atty. Ivan John E. Uy
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Dean Froilan M. Bacungan
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Four Ages of Skin

Amina Aranaz-Alunan

Your skin goes through a number of changes with the passing of time. And as the skin matures and becomes exposed to various elements, it needs proper skincare to suit particular needs. Facial Care Centre has the ideal solutions for all your skin problems whether you're in your twenties, thirties, forties or fifties and beyond.

TWENTIES

The skin issues: Your post-adolescent face may have less oil and acne than it did a few years ago, but your skin is now in a more vulnerable state when exposed to harmful elements. Skipping the proper protection and care will make it appear dull, unhealthy and lackluster.

How to solve them: Give your skin a wake-up call with **Advanced Lasertone**. It will rejuvenate your dull skin by increasing the collagen and elastin production to strengthen the tissues and produce a much healthier skin tone. To unclog pores and remove deep-seated dirt, regular treatments of **Deep Anti-Bacterial Facial** will make your face as polished as it was in your younger years. This highly intensive facial will rid the skin of impurities that are not easily removed by superficial washing and cleansing.

THIRTIES

The skin issues: The build-up from make-up, sun damage and the aftermath of late nights and overtime at the office will start to take its toll. Dead skin cells and surface dirt will block your skin and result to a "stressed" appearance because your skin's natural exfoliation process also starts to slow down.

Ana Roces

How to solve them: The amazing exfoliation process of **Diamond Peel** will remove all the dead cells and surface dirt on the skin's topmost layer. This will reveal a fresh new layer of baby-smooth, clear skin and an even-toned complexion that radiates with a healthy glow.

FORTIES

The skin issues: By this age, the effects of sun damage will begin to show, especially on skin that was not protected with the right sunblock in the previous years. Freckles, blemishes, skin discoloration and other age spots start to appear.

Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez

How to solve them: **IPL** (Intense Pulsed Light) is a non-invasive treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to treat all these skin imperfections. This safe, painless procedure also gives the skin a youthful glow that makes it unnecessary to apply concealer or foundation. Even without any make-up, the skin looks clear and even-toned, but not dull and dry.

FIFTIES AND BEYOND

The skin issues: Wrinkles, fine lines, crow's feet, dryness, droops and sags. The obvious signs of aging can be unforgiving, and even in spite of preventive measures, aging signs are inevitable. The skin becomes thinner and even more susceptible to harmful elements. For women experiencing menopause, the skin is also affected because there is less estrogen production. Estrogen is responsible for keeping the skin hydrated and soft, so as the estrogen levels drop, the skin loses it's elasticity and color.

How to solve them: The latest breakthrough in non-surgical technology, **ReFirme** will tighten and lift the skin after a hassle-free, no-downtime, 45-minute procedure. After a treatment, visible improvement can be immediately seen and felt. A firmer, smoother and plumper skin texture is achieved, elasticity is restored, and sags, fine lines and wrinkles are diminished.

All treatments are available at Facial Care Centre. For a free consultation, call 892-SKIN (7546), Cebu - 2337631 and Pampanga - 9613404.

Suzette Arriesgado
Fifties & Beyond

Is there a Palace bagman in Subic?

From page A1

The Subic Freeport has become known derisively as the "home of the generals."

There, an increasing number of retired generals are appointed consultants of private companies doing business and live in luxury villas.

And there, in what can very well be a smuggler's paradise, everyone's dream car can be had for practically a song, if you believe customs officials based there.

Such sports car treasures as Porsches, Lamborghinis, Ferraris and BMWs have an appraised value of as ridiculously low as $1,000, according to official documents provided by investigators to the INQUIRER.

Mind-boggling

In fact, a Porsche twin-turbo sells for $90,000 to $100,000 in the foreign market. Add a 100-percent tax if sold here and the money a smuggler can make is simply mind-boggling—especially if the appraiser at Subic puts a value of $1,000 on it for tax purposes.

Each luxury car that is driven out of the sprawling port is not only depriving the treasury of badly needed tax revenues, it is slowly subverting the manufacturing sector and is helping keep the nation a poverty-stricken Third World economy.

Why is this so?

For the mass of Filipinos, access to the most visible form of wealth has been denied by the general failure of the agrarian reform program over the past two decades because of resistance of the *hacenderos* and plantation owners.

The one surefire way to social mobility through a good education in the era of globalization has been derailed by corruption, incompetence and ineptitude over the past three decades, academics say.

Factory or airport

For those who have acquired some skills, the way out of the rut in impoverished rural areas wracked by income inequality, violence and insurgency is the factory that businessmen say should be the focus of government attempts to industrialize, or the airport to become a worker overseas.

But it is in the manufacturing sector that a failure of governance as exemplified by rampant smuggling is increasingly being felt.

Executives at the Ford and Toyota plants in the Philippines have raised warning signals on the impact on the automotive industry of smuggling at Subic and other such free ports as those in Cebu and Davao.

Take Ford Philippines as an example. A decade ago, it set up a $200-million plant in Santa Rosa City in Laguna, hoping it will capture a profitable percentage of vehicle sales of up to 200,000 units by this year.

At that time, the industry sold around 160,000 vehicles, including 30,000 completely built units (CBUs) and 130,000 completely knocked down (CKD) cars assembled in the local plants.

Market in doldrums

But the market has been in the doldrums since—for a host of reasons.

The financial crisis that hit Southeast Asia and also engulfed the Philippines in 1997, set back sales in the automotive industry in the region. In the Philippines, sales were down by 50 percent.

The excise tax regime changed dramatically. Luxury cars and SUVs were slapped up to 100-percent tax. The forging of a free trade agreement in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is also providing a downbeat outlook as it will open up the local market and allow importation from neighboring countries.

But rampant smuggling has done more to inflict serious damage on the industry.

Automotive industry figures by last year showed car sales were down to around 100,000 units but smuggled cars in circulation went up to a whopping 70,000.

Industry in distress

Ford is among the major car makers hit hard. All are now operating at 20-25 percent of capacity.

"The industry is in distress," says one executive. "Unless something is done, it will just continue to decline."

At the rate the Philippine plants are now operating, it is too inefficient or costly to be able to compete with other producers in Southeast Asia that have overcome the financial crisis of the late 1990s and whose sales are now back to where they were before disaster struck.

There, because of economies of scale, the cost of production is lower. Here, because of "underutilization," cost of production is higher.

Suppliers closing down

Industry sources say a number of factories supporting the car plants have either closed down or have laid off workers, particularly those that are engaged in the manufacturing of spare parts, glass, carpets and seat upholstery.

Without demand, local suppliers of assembly plants cannot sustain their own operations, which are no longer viable. Spare parts then have to be imported.

Skilled workers who cannot find jobs are forced to flee the country for jobs overseas.

It is a vicious cycle.

A sham

Smugglers are laughing at the nationally televised wrecking of 18 supposed luxury cars at the Subic Freeport on Aug. 16 that the President had ordered. They dismiss it as nothing more than a "*moro moro*"—a sham.

Top officials of the Subic Freeport are finger-pointing at each other on why imported cars are being smuggled right under their very noses.

The auto executive says if the investigators will look around, the culprits should be easily identified.

"Cars are not a perishable commodity like fruits or vegetables," he says. "There's a paper trail. Just look at it." *(To be continued tomorrow.)*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 10, 2007
23rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Col 1:24-2:3
Gospel: Luke 6:6-11

On another Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and began teaching. There was a man with a paralyzed right hand and the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees watched him: Would Jesus heal the man on the Sabbath? If he did, they could accuse him.

But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to the man, "Get up and stand in the middle." Then he spoke to them, "I want to ask you: what is allowed by the Law on the Sabbath, to do good or to do harm, to save life or destroy it?" And Jesus looked around at them all.

Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out and his hand was restored, becoming as whole as the other. But they were furious and began to discuss with one another how they could deal with Jesus.

Commentary

Paul speaks not only of his sufferings for the gospel but also his joy because he fills up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ, on behalf of the Church. The mystery of Christ that is preached is the mystery of the cross and resurrection. Our life in Christ entails bearing our cross and dying and living in the Lord together. We are to be united in love, struggling for and with one another, and strengthening one another. We are to remember that we live in mystery with Christ in God!

Jesus heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath and the hearts and minds of those who are withered with insensitivity, self-righteousness, and judgmentalism are indignant. Jesus is about life, giving life, preserving life for all, most especially for those whose lives are on the brink, on the edge. This protection of life, this healing and care for all people from the womb to the tomb, provokes a frenzy of rage. And the people are intent at going after Jesus. Do we share Jesus' dedication to the truth and his care for other human beings?

Goods cannot be released without official . . .

From page A1

the 60,000 cars and heavy equipment imported yearly through the free port, 3,000 are without import permits.

A car "importer," who admits participating in smuggling activities at the free port since 2001, has put the "loose" cars at 3,000 to 5,000 a year. He says only "token" seizures were being conducted by the SBMA and the Bureau of Customs.

Calimlim, chief of Task Force Subic that was created by President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop car smuggling through the sprawling former American naval base, says he is having a tough time.

His own report reflects this.

Over a one-year period following his appointment in 2004, Calimlim had seized only 36 vehicles. He confesses he could not pinpoint who the culprits are and if he knew he could not reveal their names anyway because "threats on my life are terrible."

Marietta Zamoranos, Bureau of Customs collector at Subic, also cannot give names, although critics say it is quite easy to track down smuggled cars because there is a paper trail. Cars are registered with the Land Transportation Office.

"Their schemes are hi-tech," Zamoranos says. Pressed what she means by that, she says: "People in the know would not know. They have changed gears."

Undersecretary Antonio Villar Jr., chief of the newly formed Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group, is said to have a watch list of smugglers, which he would not disclose.

Jesus Arranza, president of the Federation of Philippine Industries and chair of the FPI's anti-smuggling committee, says: "I cannot tell you who are actually smuggling in the cars. It's difficult to substantiate. But the goods cannot come out without the connivance of people in authority."

SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza offers an explanation on why no suspects or a few suspects have cropped up.

"In the majority of smuggling cases, there is an absence of admission permits and gate passes. This practice is commonly referred to as 'swing.' Smuggled goods typically have no documentary trail. We are trying to identify the individuals who are involved in 'swing' activities and will persecute them fully," Arreza said.

At least 35 Subic-registered companies engaged in importing vehicles had been delisted for "possible import-export violations," not necessarily smuggling.

Possible suspects

The car smuggler identified two possible suspects.

The first is Pampanga-based and is a relative of a man killed last year over what was believed to be a conflict among car smugglers at the free port. His activities were the subject of an Aug. 31, 1999, confidential memorandum by an SBMA security consultant.

That man was described in the memo as a "notorious broker." His name does not appear in available apprehension reports or in lists of consignees.

The second is said to be close to Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales.

"I don't know him," Morales said when the INQUIRER mentioned the man's name to him.

The man was not available for interview as he was reportedly in Taiwan. His name appeared twice in the summary of 264 cars imported from June 1997 to August 1998.

Unsettled issue

The smuggling issue has hounded the Subic Freeport since 1993, in the time of SBMA's first chair and now Sen. Richard Gordon.

His successor, former Bataan Rep. Felicito Payumo, had constantly raised the issue, saying smugglers used Subic's Freeport status (the policy of free flow of goods) to bring in tax-free imported cars. Gordon has denied that smuggling happened under his stint.

When Payumo took over the helm of the SBMA, it was Gordon who questioned the smuggling activities, this time on used and right-hand drive cars.

In a Sept. 30, 2005, hearing by the Senate committees on government corporations and public enterprises, Gordon said that out of 90,000 smuggled cars that passed through the free port from 2000 to 2003, only 128 were re-exported abroad.

At a tax of P100,000 per vehicle, he says government might have lost P45 billion in taxes for the same period.

Subic auctioneers and assemblers have shrugged off Gordon's allegations, saying the importation gave birth to an industry that provided Filipinos with affordable cars.

They mounted a lobby up to the Supreme Court to junk Ms Arroyo's Executive Order No. 156 that banned car importation through the Subic Freeport. They won.

Issue won't die down

The smuggling issue, spanning three presidents and four SBMA administrations, has refused to die down.

For one, there has been a rise in the importation of luxury vehicles by Subic-based trading firms.

From a low of nine units in the first three months of 2006, the number rose to 272 in the succeeding three quarters of the year. From January to February 2007 alone, 89 cars have entered the free port.

"Ford, Toyota, Nissan and other big capital investors are all relocating to other countries because they are losing money from technical smuggling. They told [Ms Arroyo that] if no measures are taken, they would most likely resort to massive layoffs," says an INQUIRER source in Malacañang to explain the destruction of 18 cars on Aug. 16.

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After fertilizer, farmers say next scam in irrigation

By Christian V. Esguerra

AFTER THE P728-MILLION FERtilizer fund scam in 2004, could another scandal be far behind after the government quietly released at least P3.1 billion for irrigation projects just months before last May's elections?

The militant farmers group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) yesterday called for a congressional investigation of the hefty allocation, expressing doubt it actually went toward the rehabilitation of irrigation facilities around the country.

"There is a certain stink to this and we fear that once again the funds allotted for farmers were used to bankroll the election campaign of the administration—but this time it is at least three times bigger than the fertilizer scam," said KMP president Rafael Mariano.

The allocation was revealed by Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo during the House committee on appropriations' deliberations on the Department of Agriculture's 2008 budget last week.

The KMP said the P3.1-billion outlay was released in two tranches before the May 14 elections—P500 million was issued in January and the balance of P2.6 billion two months later.

Under questioning by Ocampo, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said the release of the funds just before the May elections was merely "coincidental."

"That was the period when we really needed to repair (the irrigation facilities) because there was no rain," Yap said. "The dry season is the best time to undertake infrastructure repairs for irrigation."

A document shown to the INQUIRER by KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos included a list of 37 "focus provinces" that were supposed to have received portions of the P3.1-billion irrigation budget.

But a check with the National Irrigation Authority offices in some of the provinces showed "projects had not been started and a small number had not been completed," Mariano said.

"When we asked the local NIA (offices) what was taking (them) so long, they replied that the funds had (not) been released," he said. "How could that be when the funds were made available as early as January? This contradicts Secretary Yap's statement that it was released at that time to (take advantage of) the dry weather."

If irrigation rehabilitation work had really been undertaken during the dry season, Mariano said provinces like Isabela, Quirino, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, Ilocos Norte, Kalinga and Tarlac would not have suffered during the recent dry spell that devastated their crops.

Mariano pegged the destruction in these areas at P638 million.

In some areas like Nueva Ecija, he said the government had come up with "showcase projects ... so that the people would think everything was above-board."

"Majority of the supposed target areas for irrigation works had seen no such thing for the past six months," he said.

"We think they (DA officials) learned from the P728-million fertilizer fund scam so now they make showcase projects and present these to the media," Mariano said.

The fertilizer fund scam refers to the alleged diversion of P278 million intended for fertilizer purchases for farmers nationwide but which funds supposedly ended up in the administration party's coffers during the 2004 election campaign period.

Suspended over forgery

THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISsion has suspended a official of the Light Rail Transit Authority for three months for submitting a forged medical certificate to justify a sick leave.

The LRTA had accused lawyer Aurora Salvana, a division manager, of grave misconduct and falsification of official documents, among other charges.

Salvana had submitted a medical certificate supposedly signed by a Dr. Grace Marie Blanco who subsequently testified under oath that she had not examined Salvana and did not issue or sign a medical certificate for her.

But the CSC ruled that a government employee who submits a fake or forged medical certificate to justify sick leave was liable only for simple dishonesty.

The CSC said that while the prosecution had established that the medical certificate was indeed spurious and Salvana had not even bothered to present any proof to the contrary, it was still not convinced that Salvana had committed grave misconduct.

"Her dishonest act ... did not cause damage or prejudice to the government and had no direct relation to or did not involve (her) duties and responsibilities ... The same is true with the falsification she committed, where the information falsified was not related to her employment," the CSC said.

Salvana was appointed officer in charge of LRTA's administrative department but when she was transferred to handle special projects, she filed for sick leave on the same day which she tried to cover up with the fake medical certificate.

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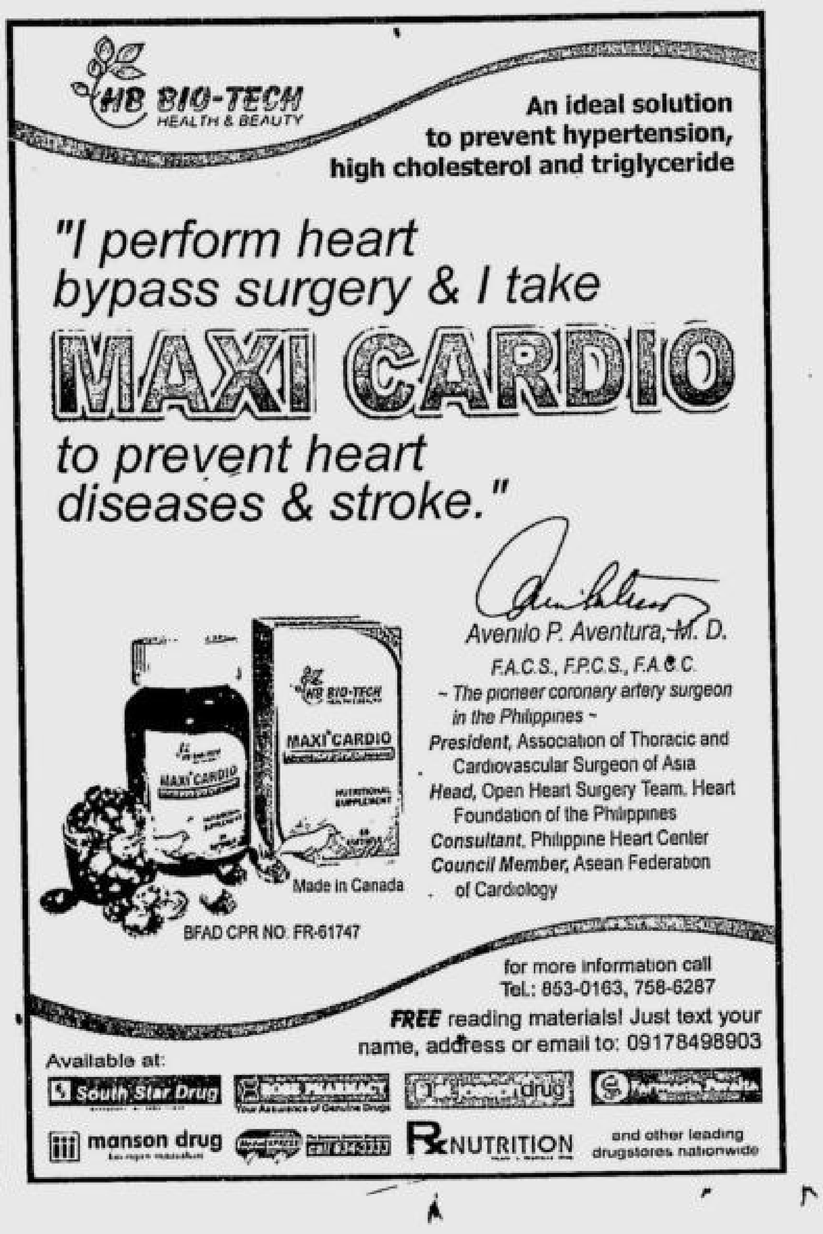
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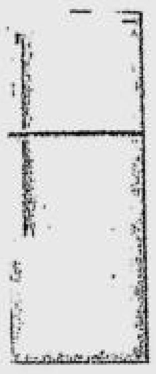

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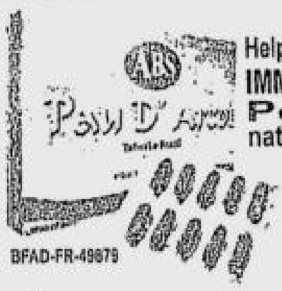

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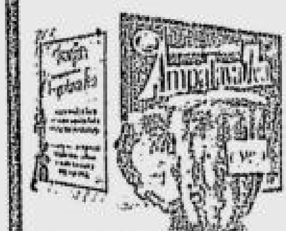

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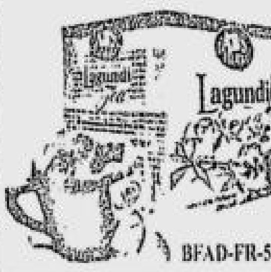

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GMA on Apec summit: It's as good as it gets

SYDNEY—THEY CAME, THEY saw, and they shook a lot of hands, but as Asia-Pacific leaders wrapped up another summit yesterday, the question was whether their annual get-together produced very much.

Most participants and observers said the answer was, well, a little.

Roberto Romulo, a former Philippine foreign secretary who now sits on a business advisory group to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum, said it was normal for a summit to achieve less than what it had aimed at.

"Look at it as 21 people sleeping on the same bed," he told reporters here. "Each one of them is dreaming his or her own dream."

Still, analyst Charles Morrison said he had been "pleasantly surprised" by this year's event.

"I think there's not much in the way of … a big concrete output, but the spirit was good," said Morrison, director of the Hawaii-based East-West Center on Asia-Pacific relations.

He said the advantage of a summit was not the nitty-gritty—sorted out at officials' level—but the chance to chew over concerns privately with other Apec leaders.

"There's a little bit of competition between the leaders of the big powers, competition for a sense that you are a vigorous world leader," he said.

Richard Broinowski, a former Australian ambassador, was dismissive though, saying that on the contrary, "very little has been achieved."

He echoed the reaction of environmental activists and others that the climate deal was empty as it contained no binding commitments and reaffirmed the United Nations as the main forum against global warming.

"This is a sideshow. It's not a breakthrough at all," he said.

The summit's focus on climate change and security was not really what Apec was supposed to be about, he said, while US President George W. Bush had been so "mesmerized" by the war in Iraq that he had neglected Asia.

"What is Apec? Four adjectives in search of a noun," Broinowski said.

Much of the buildup to the weekend summit was taken up with the visits of Chinese President Hu Jintao, who had been in Australia since Monday, Bush—who arrived late Tuesday—and Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Hu oversaw a deal to import liquefied natural gas from Australia and Putin an accord with Australian Prime Minister John Howard allowing Moscow to buy uranium produced here, while Bush hailed the Australian leader for his unstinting support in Iraq.

They helped make it a relatively successful summit for Howard, said Damien Kingsbury, a political analyst at Deakin University in Melbourne.

He thought the summit had been "relatively more positive" than other years because of Australia's commitment and for placing climate change top of the agenda.

"It is issues like that which have given it probably greater relevance," Kingsbury said.

He said Apec's economic clout—the region produces 56 percent of global output—meant it had developed "a gravity of focus that is now rare to find in other international fora."

However, with so many disparate political and economic systems, getting any agreement can be a challenge.

"In diplomacy you cannot be 100-percent satisfied. Agreements are a product of negotiations," Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda commented after the climate change wrangling.

Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo put it more succinctly. "It's as good as it gets," she said of the statement, "considering this is Apec. *AFP*

Apec states push global trade talks to final phase

From page A1

A successful global trade deal would "deliver new trade flows for the benefit of all, including developing countries," it said, adding that Apec members, which collectively account for half of global trade, have a major stake in helping to create a rules-based global trading system.

Curb global warming

Australian Prime Minister John Howard, announcing the final conclusions of the summit, also highlighted steps announced by the leaders on Saturday to curb global warming, which included two nonbinding goals on improving energy efficiency and increasing forest cover.

Unlike the UN-backed Kyoto Protocol, the "Sydney Declaration" on climate change does not set targets on the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.

US President George W. Bush, Chinese President Hu Jintao, Russian President Vladimir Putin and other Apec leaders hope the climate change program will influence coming global warming talks that critics have dismissed as too timid.

Supporters said the significance lay in getting the United States and China—the world's biggest polluters—to agree on common goals and in getting rich and developing nations to work together.

The Apec program may sway coming talks in Washington, New York and Indonesia on a new climate change blueprint to replace Kyoto, which expires in 2012.

Increasing forest cover

Under the platform, Apec members will reduce "energy intensity"—the amount of energy needed to produce a dollar of gross domestic product—25 percent by 2030.

They pledged to increase forest cover in the region by at least 20 million hectares by 2020.

Some developing countries in Apec were not very happy about the Sydney Declaration.

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare told fellow leaders he had reservations about signing the document, according to a statement issued by his office yesterday.

"Despite our efforts at this Apec meeting, no recognition is given to the initiatives pursued by the Coalition for Rainforest Nations on reducing carbon emissions from deforestation," said Somare, whose country is being heavily logged and where some smaller islands are being flooded by rising sea levels.

He also said carbon trading mechanisms were not adequately addressed in the declaration.

The declaration was seen as a compromise between rich and poor Apec economies.

Health and population

Apec leaders also agreed to take various steps to ensure the health and safety of the region's population, including counterterrorism measures, Howard said.

The action was not aimed at China, which has been grappling with a series of product recalls in a number of countries, ranging from toys to toothpaste, Australia said.

The declaration was expected to deal with other threats to regional economic growth, including terrorism, natural disasters, food supply contamination and pandemics, such as bird flu.

A study in Singapore found the impact on Apec economies from a major terrorist attack would be $137 billion in lost GDP and $159 billion in reduced trade.

Pacific-wide free trade

The Pacific Rim leaders also said yesterday they would continue to examine a proposal to create a Pacific-wide free-trade zone that would stretch from China to Chile and include all 21 Apec members, according to a final declaration released by the leaders.

The proposal, dubbed the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific and first floated three years ago, has gathered support from the United States and some other members, as well as among regional business leaders as a possible alternative to WTO talks.

"Business is increasingly skeptical" about global trade talks, said Mark Johnson, chair of AGL Energy Ltd., an energy retailer, and head of a business advisory council to Apec leaders.

But Apec members say the Pacific-wide trade zone proposal faces numerous hurdles and is only a long-term prospect. *Reports from AP and Reuters*

RP, China to review broadband project

From page A1

In ceremonies attended by Ms Arroyo, Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and ZTE vice president Yu Yong signed the $329-million NBN deal on April 21 in Boao, China, shortly before the Philippine copy of the contract was stolen. The supply contract has been reconstituted.

Bribery

Asked about allegations that ZTE executives had bribed certain Filipino officials to clinch the deal, Ms Arroyo said Saturday: "I don't know much about it either."

Rep. Carlos Padilla has filed corruption charges against Mendoza and other officials involved in the deal, and named Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. as the broker.

Abalos was reportedly given free trips to China and women by ZTE to lobby in its behalf.

Jose de Venecia III, a son of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and cofounder of Amsterdam Holdings Inc., a proponent of the NBN project, has said Abalos tried to bribe him with $10 million to back out of the project.

Abalos has denied De Venecia's allegation.

Romulo Neri, former director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, has neither confirmed nor denied that he was offered a P200-million bribe.

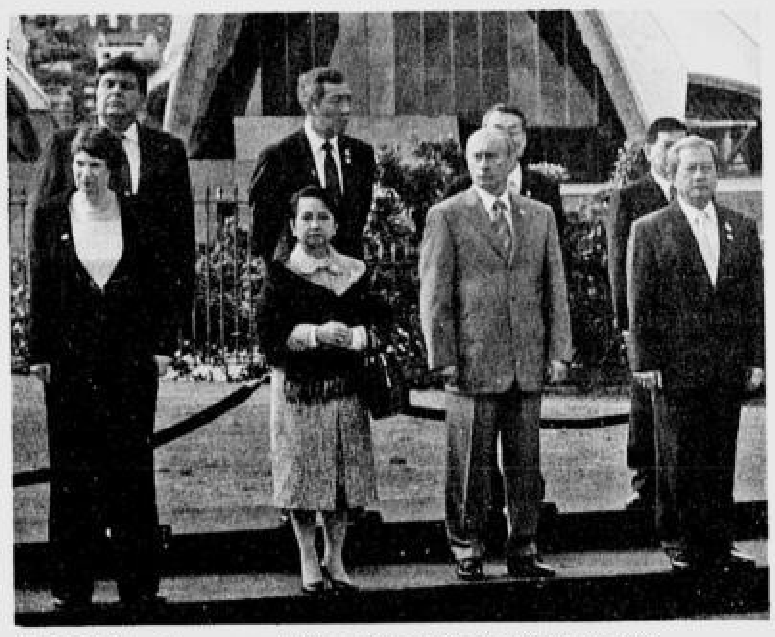
But reports said that when Neri, now chair of the Commission on Higher Education, informed Ms Arroyo about the bribery, she told him not to accept the money but approve the deal anyway.

The House of Representatives and the Senate are set to investigate the ZTE deal.

Asked if she had made a decision on the controversial contract, Ms Arroyo said: "No, not yet."

"I have to discuss it with the Cabinet members who are in charge. We haven't discussed it yet. I'll await their recommendation," she said in an interview with reporters who covered her trip here for the Apec summit.

It was the first time Ms Arroyo commented on the ZTE controversy, in response to a question.



LEADERS and representatives of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation pose for a family photo on the final day of their summit. Front row (from left): New Zealand's Prime Minister Helen Clark, Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo, Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Thailand's Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont; back row (from left): Peru's President Alan Garcia, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Taiwan's economic leader representative Stan Shih, and Vietnam's President Nguyen Minh Triet. REUTERS

But she indicated she did not want to talk about the ZTE contract and other political issues during a nearly two-hour late Saturday night chat she had with reporters in her presidential suite at the Four Seasons Hotel after the first day of the two-day Apec summit.

"Stick to Apec issues, please," she told the reporters, as she tugged at her necklace.

Ms Arroyo, accompanied by Bunye, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, had just come from a dinner and cultural presentation at the iconic Opera House on the first evening of the two-day summit.

China-funded projects

In Manila, two sources close to the President said Ms Arroyo would meet with her Cabinet tomorrow to decide the fate of more than $2-billion worth of projects to be bankrolled and undertaken by Chinese firms, including the NBN.

The sources said Ms Arroyo had indicated to her Cabinet officials in Sydney that she would consider either "putting on hold for further review or canceling outright" the Chinese projects based on her advisers' recommendations.

Included in the review were projects whose contracts had already been signed—the ZTE deal, the North and SouthRail projects, and the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) pipeline.

Cyber education project

Other projects with no contracts that would be covered by the review are the Laiban Dam water supply, Cyber Education Project, and major housing projects in the pipeline.

One of the sources said Ms Arroyo had decided to turn to her Cabinet for advice in view of the mounting criticism against Chinese projects, specifically the ZTE contract.

Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, son of the Comelec chair, was part of the President's delegation to Sydney.

Ms Arroyo introduced the mayor and some members of the House of Representatives to leaders of the Filipino community during the convention of the Global Filipino Networking on Friday. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

Senate has been nemesis of both Estrada, GMA

From page A1

The irony cannot be more sharply etched. As Estrada ends the agony of waiting for the judicial verdict on his case, Ms Arroyo is just beginning her own new encounter with political uncertainty.

The political fortunes of Ms Arroyo and Estrada have crossed and overlapped since 2001, when People Power II toppled him after he was abandoned by the Armed Forces.

The saga of the fall of Estrada and the rise of Ms Arroyo seems to have been intertwined in the tapestry of their mutually exclusive fates.

On Wednesday, Estrada will see the end of his anxiety over whether he will walk out of the Sandiganbayan a free man, or become the first Filipino president in history to be convicted of a crime.

As criminal and political history is written on that day, Ms Arroyo's legitimacy will remain on the line, hostage to the unpredictable proceedings of the revived Senate inquiry into the "Hello Garci" tapes.

Garci closure dim

The Senate has been the nemesis of both Presidents since 2000, when Estrada faced an impeachment trial.

The prospects of the closure of the "Hello Garci" issue within the remaining three years of the Arroyo presidency appeared dim as the hearings at the Senate blue ribbon, defense and national security and electoral committees uncovered new issues.

The emergence of fresh issues foreshadows a protracted Senate investigation that is likely to haunt her presidency until 2010.

New twist

The Senate investigation developed a new twist on Friday when former T/Sgt. Vidal Doble, an ex-military intelligence agent who claimed to have taped the telephone conversations between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, testified that a presidential assistant, Medy Poblador, intervened in his transfer in June 2005 from the San Carlos Seminary in Makati City to Camp Aguinaldo.

Doble had taken refuge in the seminary with the former deputy director of the National Bureau of Investigation, Samuel Ong, who in a press conference, spoke about having in his possession the "master tapes" of the wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano.

Poblador into the act

Doble had been expected to reveal the source of the "Hello Garci" tapes at a press conference at the seminary before he was taken by Balanga Bishop Socrates Villegas to Camp Aguinaldo.

The Senate reopened the inquiry into the tapes after Sen. Panfilo Lacson presented a video testimony of Doble that he was now ready to admit, after two years of silence, that he and a team of military intelligence technicians had tapped the conversations between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano.

Senators had decided in a caucus not to replay the tapes, fearing criminal liability for replaying an illegally obtained evidence.

But the hearings were sidetracked when Doble on Friday revealed that Poblador was involved in his removal from the seminary. How did Poblador get into the act?

Woman named 'Medy'

Doble testified that he saw at the official residence of then AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu "a woman" identified by his wife as "Medy, a secretary of President Arroyo." Doble said Medy had approached his wife and told her that if they had any problems they could come to her.

Lacson supplied the woman's full name as Remedios Poblador and identified her as a "confidante of President Arroyo." Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno confirmed on Friday that Remedios Poblador is an undersecretary detailed with the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office in the House of Representatives.

Bishop's role

How the Church got involved in the transfer of Doble is revealed in a letter of Bishop Villegas, who was invited to but did not appear at the hearing. Villegas said he received on June 13, 2005, calls from priests at the seminary and "asked him for help."

He said he took Doble out of the seminary out of concern for the safety of the seminarians. He also said Poblador had asked him to help resolve "the ongoing crisis" in the seminary amid reports that the Army would raid the place to spring out Doble and Ong.

Explaining the presence of Poblador in Camp Aguinaldo, where she met Bishop Villegas and Doble, Puno said Medy was "asked to talk to Cardinal Rosales (Gaudencio) because she's a relative of Cardinal Rosales … (and) not because she's a Palace official."

New Palace line

Puno said Doble "asked for the help of someone who can talk to the bishop, so that violence would be avoided."

The Palace has, however, taken a new line to explain Medy's intervention. Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo said Malacañang did not order her to try to persuade Doble to leave the seminary. He said Poblador intervened "in her personal capacity," and "upon the behest of the Catholic Church and the military," both of which obviously wanted Doble out of the seminary to end the standoff and to avert violence.

The purpose of Lacson in highlighting the intervention of Poblador appears evident in his claim that it brought the "Hello Garci" issue to the doorsteps of Malacañang.

A fall guy

The thrust appears to lay the basis of a new impeachment complaint alleging a Palace cover-up of the tapes, through its functionaries.

This recalls the attempts of the Richard Nixon White House to cover up the break-in of the Democratic Party offices in the Watergate apartments. The cover-up produced some articles of impeachment, which led to Nixon's resignation from the presidency.

Although Puno said Poblador would "in due time, issue statements on this matter," it was not clear whether Ms Arroyo would bar her from testifying at the Senate under Executive Order No. 464, if she was summoned. The summons should not be ruled out.

Opposition senators have smelled blood. A clash is inevitable over EO 464.

In the meantime, the Palace has found a fall guy in a faceless functionary. The opposition has found a political strawman to bash.

Doc meted out year's suspension for error

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COURT OF Appeals has upheld the Board of Medicine's decision meting out a one-year suspension on a doctor for gross negligence for allegedly misdiagnosing and operating on a 17-year-old boy who later died.

In its ruling, the appellate court said there was sufficient basis to suspend Dr. Candido San Juan for medical negligence in his treatment of Richard Rejuso, who succumbed to a wound in his intestine which the doctor had operated on in 1997.

"Petitioner breached his duty as a physician when he made an incorrect diagnosis and operation on Richard," the court said in an Aug. 31 decision.

It said San Juan's actions led to Rejuso's death, and caused injury to his parents.

The appellate court also cited the findings of the Professional Regulation Commission's Board of Medicine that his conduct was wanting, and added that in administrative proceedings there should only be reasonable ground in finding the person liable for gross negligence, even if the evidence was not overwhelming.

The doctor had Rejuso taken to the hospital immediately and X-rayed. He said there was an obstruction in the boy's intestines which had to be operated on immediately, rejecting Rejuso's parents' suggestion that he be put on medication first.

Taking care of heroes' families

THE WIVES AND children of soldiers, policemen and other persons in authority who are disabled or die on the job after performing extraordinary acts of heroism will get full Philhealth benefits, a bill filed in Congress is proposing.

The Philhealth board approved on Aug. 24 Resolution No. 1039 which provides for continuous Philhealth coverage and benefits to dependents of disabled, incapacitated and deceased personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, National Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement agencies.

Rep. Arthur Celeste, chair of the House committee on national defense and security and author of the bill, said it would give widows lifetime benefits and children coverage until the age of 21.

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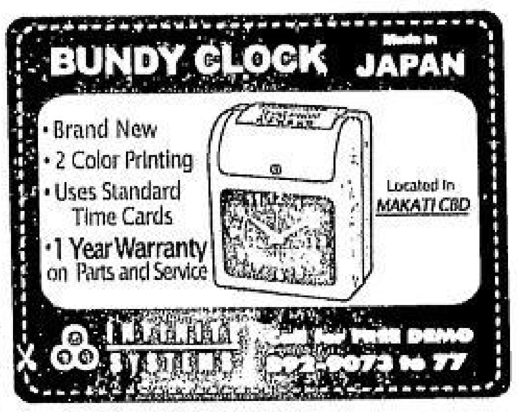
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China joins '10-B trees'

SPEAKER JOSE DE Venecia and Chinese Deputy Speaker Jiang Zhenghua agreed Friday to mobilize efforts toward the planting of 10 billion trees in Southeast Asia as well as fighting climate change, carbon dioxide emissions, drought, floods and acute unemployment.

At the same time, De Venecia informed Jiang and Chinese Defense Minister Gen. Cao Gangchuan that the House of Representatives would likely approve President Macapagal-Arroyo's amnesty proclamation covering the National Democratic Front, the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army to end almost 40 years of violence and rebellion.

In a wide-ranging hour-long discussion between the Chinese and House members at the Manila Hotel, De Venecia also proposed joint China-US, China-Asean and China-Japan military exercises to "build trust and confidence" in the Asia-Pacific region and hailed the military hotline between the US and China forged between President George W. Bush and President Hu Jintao.

De Venecia informed Jiang the Asean Parliamentary Assembly approved last month in Kuala Lumpur a proposal to plant 10 billion trees in the 10 Association of South East Asian nations.

For his part, Jiang told De Venecia China's environment had deteriorated and was in need of large-scale tree-planting.

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2N SHENZHEN+1N MACAU+DISNEY	$149
MACAU (free & easy)	$209
MACAU 1N / HKG 1N / SZN 1N	$159
2N HONGKONG w/ SZN TOUR	$179
3N HONGKONG+3N SZN	$159
2N HKG+1N MACAU	$219
BANGKOK	$169
BANGKOK + PATTAYA	$259
SINGAPORE	$249
SINGAPORE/MALAYSIA/INDONESIA	$299
KUALA LUMPUR	$169
KUALA LUMPUR+GENTING HI-LND	$199
KUALA - SINGAPORE	$289
SAIGON	$209
JAKARTA	$239
GUAM	$369
SEOUL	$559
SHANGHAI	$159
BEIJING+SHANGHAI	$389
WEST COAST TOUR	$1,559
PILGRIMAGE TOUR	$1,969
EUROPE	$1,648

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BANGKOK	$39
SINGAPORE	$89
KUALA LUMPUR	$89
SAIGON	$109
SHANGHAI	$59
BEIJING	$49

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SEATTLE / LAS VEGAS	$558
NEW YORK/DCA/CHI	$689
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SYDNEY / MELBOURNE	$549
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2N HONGKONG+1N SHENZHEN	$178	4D SIN+MALAYSIA+INDONESIA	$268
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3D	KUALA LUMPUR Free & Easy	$316	5D	SHANGHAI	$169
10D	LOS ANGELES SAN FRANCISCO LAS VEGAS	$1,388		1N HONGKONG 1N SHENZHEN 2N SHANGHAI	$289
2N 3N	SHANGHAI BEIJING	$388		5D SINGAPORE MALACCA MALAYSIA W/ 2N BANGKOK	$599
12D	WEST COAST	$1,588	3D	DISCOVER BALI	$342
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7D	KOREA + TAIWAN Departure Oct. 29	$799
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SINGAPORE	$110	NAGOYA	$475
VANCOUVER	$670	SEOUL	$515
OSAKA	$370	SAIGON	$168
LAX	$630	TAIPEI	$205
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BRUNEI	USD385	KUALA LUMPUR	USD400
BEIJING	USD527	SAIGON	USD233
SHANGHAI	USD484	JAKARTA	USD376
		BALI	USD394

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HONGKONG	128	GUAM	[illegible]
BEIJING	343	HONOLULU	[illegible]
SHANGHAI	227	LAX/SFO	[illegible]
XIAMEN	193	VANCOUVER	[illegible]
TAIPEI	128	SYD/MEL	[illegible]
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H2-3	Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou 4 - 6 Days	
C1A	Beijing, Xian, Guilin 6 - 8 Days	Friday
C1B	Beijing, Shanghai, Guilin 6 - 8 Days	Tues, Fri
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‘Tourism looking up’

THE BEST IS YET TO COME FOR Philippine tourism, according to Tourism Secretary Joseph “Ace” Durano.

Speaking last week at the Philippine Travel Exchange (Phitex), Durano said 2007 marked “the first time the Philippines would have more than three million tourists.”

He also disclosed that some $2 billion worth of tourism projects were being developed nationwide to meet the unprecedented demand for hotel rooms.

“Before, the problem was the lack of business. Today it’s lack of rooms to accommodate the brisk business,” he said.

Durano told a subsequent press conference the Philippines used to get only 200,000 foreign arrivals three times a year.

“But now, every month, we have more than 200,000 and that’s good business all year round,” he said.

Peace and order was never an issue, Durano said. “The issue is when the new hotels are opening.”

Tourist arrivals of 1,528,507 from January to June augur a little more than three million visitors expected this year, Durano had earlier said.

The 18th Philippine Travel Mart, meanwhile, was held at SM Megamall from Sept. 7 to 9.

“Everything’s Here for You” was the theme of the one-stop trade show that catered to tour and travel components like airlines, shipping and land transport, hotels, resorts and convention sites, marketers and promoters, said Jo Pestano, president of the Philippine Tour Operators Association which presents the PTM annually.

The PTM was co-presented by the Department of Tourism, the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp. and the Philippine Tourism Authority.

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Hot news

EDITORIAL

THE SYDNEY DECLARATION IS NOT A BREAKthrough; it is not a milestone in the long march to find what the joint statement called "an enduring global solution to climate change." But it is a step forward.

The statement by the leaders attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Sydney, Australia, declared their resolve to lower greenhouse gas emissions. "We are committed to the global objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere ... The world needs to slow, stop and then reverse the growth of global greenhouse gas emissions."

To be sure, the Sydney Apec Leaders' Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean Development, to give it its complete name, speaks only of the need to work together to achieve a "long-term aspirational global emissions reduction goal," in preparation for "an effective post-2012 international arrangement." In other words, the consensus-driven APEC regional grouping did not call for binding commitments on the part of each member-economy to lower greenhouse gas emissions. That makes the Sydney Declaration decidedly unlike the 10-year-old Kyoto Protocol, which binds its signatories to specific reduction targets. Commitments under that controversial agreement, which took effect in 2005, end in 2012.

The principal supporters of the Sydney initiative are Australia, this year's host of the annual summit, and the United States: staunch allies, robust business partners—and stubborn non-signatories to the Kyoto Protocol.

Essentially, what the Sydney Declaration does for the two economies is to give them the breathing room they need to flex the necessary political muscle at home. By cutting a high profile in their support for this new APEC initiative to counter global warming (the declaration was issued a day before the end of the summit, to coincide with US President George W. Bush's accelerated schedule), both Australia and the United States can say they are doing something on the climate change front, without actually committing to specific emission reduction targets until at least 2012.

But consensus diplomacy being what it is, the Sydney Declaration also offers something for developing economies, especially China. The very concept of a long-term goal meets Chinese (as well as Canadian) preferences.

While the language of diversity in unity—"The future international climate change arrangement needs to reflect differences in economic and social conditions among economies and be consistent with our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities"—can be said to favor both developed and developing economies, the latter found the statement's unequivocal commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to their advantage.

"That's fine," President Macapagal-Arroyo told reporters the night the statement was released, "because at least they all recognized that the UN is the real forum for decision-making."

"The important thing is not to undermine the UN," she added.

As we said, a little something for everyone. But because consensus groupings like APEC and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations operate on the fundamental principle of precedents, the Sydney Declaration can be considered a real step forward. Even without formal formulas about binding goals, the joint statement already commits all APEC members to the general idea of emission reduction targets for both developed and developing economies by the next decade.

The collective decision to pursue "an effective post-2012 international arrangement," therefore, can be understood to mean some progress forward.

Politicos' transparency

FOREIGN COMMENT

POLITICIANS TODAY HAVE SIMPLY GOT TO STOP CLINGING to the "good old days." They must fundamentally change their collective mind-set. They need to grasp that no matter how effective they may be politically, they do not deserve to remain in politics if they lack transparency in their monetary dealings and cannot offer adequate explanations to the public about their behavior. They should take it upon themselves to write and enforce laws that require thorough disclosure of the sources and expenditures of political funds.

Until politicians become fully capable of abiding by a firm code of ethical conduct, the current "domino resignations" cannot be stopped, nor will this or future administrations be able to regain the trust of the public, which they need to survive.

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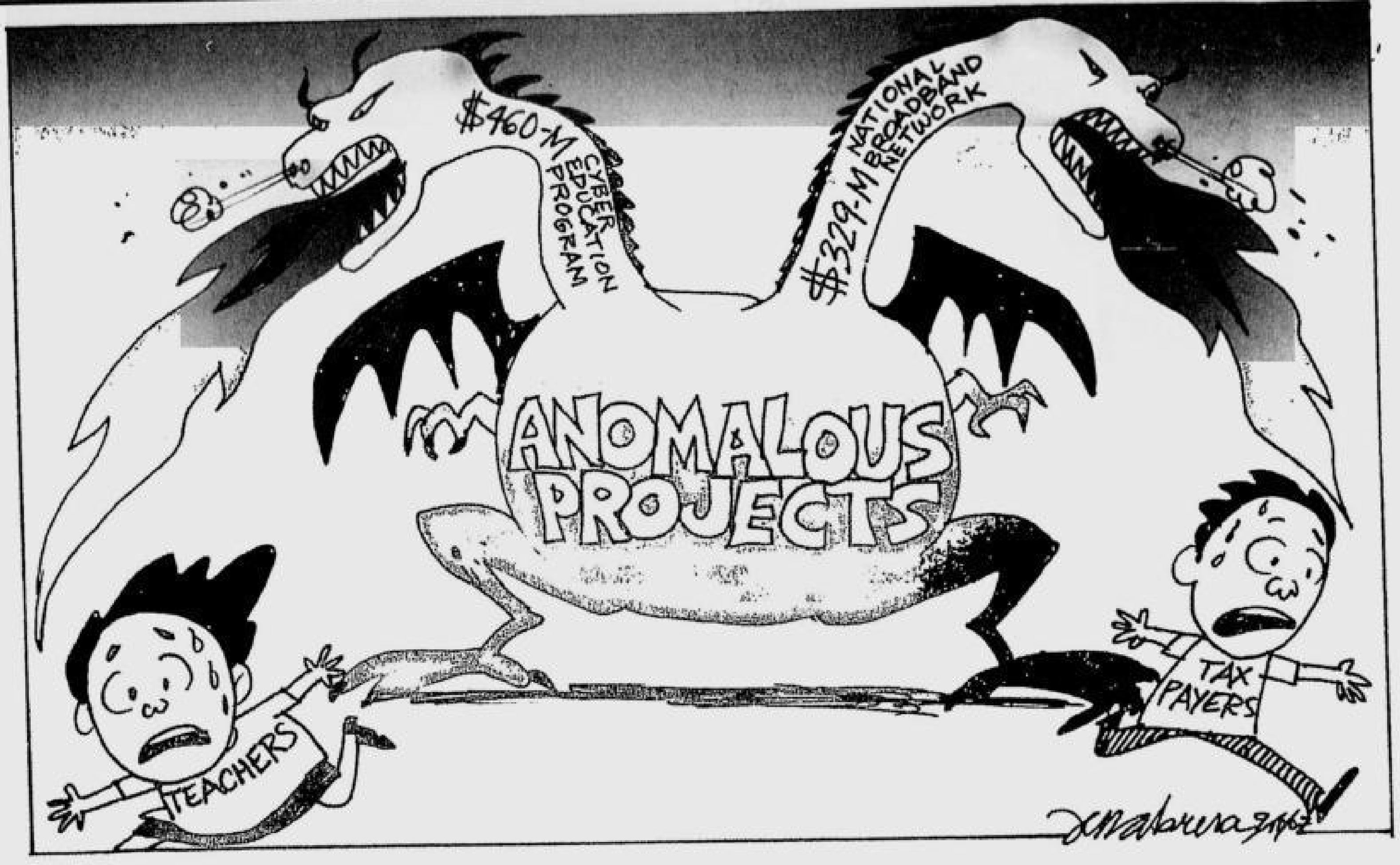
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Meralco replies on power industry issues

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WE GOT A VERY QUICK REPLY FROM MERALco on the issues raised in the previous two columns on the "5 evils of cross-ownership" in the power industry, the principal cause of high power rates. The Epira is due to be amended and a total ban on cross-ownership (which was in the original bill but which was watered down to allow Meralco to own generating plants) is one of the proposed amendments. Meralco is opposing any change to the Epira because, its critics believe, the law as passed gives it tremendous advantages.

In fairness to Meralco and for the readers to understand the issues better, we are printing here its reply:

"The bilateral contracts between Meralco and several (sister companies) Independent Power Producers (IPPs) are not "sweetheart deals." These contracts were the products of earnest negotiations between Meralco and its counterparties, and actually resulted in lower generation charges to Meralco's consumers. Morever, the Meralco contracts with First Gas projects were initiated as a result of an invitation from the Department of Energy…

"The lower power costs resulting from the subject IPP contracts is shown by the fact that for the June 2007 billing, National Power Corp.'s (NPC) generation cost of P5.67 kWh is significantly higher than Meralco's contracted power cost with its affiliated generation companies which were as follows: First Gas Power (Sta. Rita), P4.17 kWh, and FGP (San Lorenzo), P3.79 kWh.

"Moreover, the volume contracted by Meralco with its IPPs is insignificant in comparison [with] that contracted by NPC with its own IPPs…

"It must be stressed at this point that ERC Resolution No. 11, Series 2005, effectively requires DUs (Distribution Utilities) to bid out their power supply requirements…

"The Lopez Group does not control the country's generation sector, whether directly or through the holding company for its power generation interests, First Gen. Corp. While First Gen prides itself in being the largest Filipino-owned-and-controlled independent power generation company in the Philippines, its total installed capacity of 1,839 MW accounts for a mere 12 percent of the country's total installed capacity. As a matter of fact, it only comes third, after international giants TEAM Energy (the consortium composed of Tokyo Electric and Marubeni that bought Mirant's Philippine assets) and KEPCO.

"While First Gen was able to win the 112-MW Pantabangan/Masiway Hydroelectric Complex by participating in a series of competitive auctions being conducted by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) to privatize NPC's generation assets, it must be pointed out that much bigger power assets were actually won by other private investors, such as Aboitiz Group, which won the 360-MW Magat Hydroelectric Power Plant in Isabela, and the AES Consortium, which won the 600-MW Coal-Fired Power Plant in Zambales.

"The Epira, after all, explicitly provides that no company or related group can own, operate or control more than 30 percent of the installed generating capacity of a grid and/or 25 percent of the national installed generating capacity.

For 2008, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) has set the subject generating capacity limits at the following levels: Luzon: 11,769 MW; Visayas: 1,580 MW; Mindanao: 1,689 MW; National: 15,216 MW.

"The foregoing limitations, however, are violated by the NPC which to this day continues to control more than 80 percent of the country's generating capacity through its generating companies and IPP contracts. Until NPC's assets are privatized, 'there will be no real competition as intended by the law and therefore no reduction in generation rates…'

"The failure of the past biddings for Calaca and Masinloc can only be attributed to the fact that the plants were bidded out as merchant plants, i.e. without any supply contracts. Such rendered the generating assets unattractive to potential investors. The framers of the Epira law were well aware of such possibilities, which is precisely the reason the law mandated that DUs and NPC enter into transition supply contracts (TSCs) that will be attached to the NPC assets up for privatization, to serve as enticements for prospective investors. Meralco already entered into a TSC with NPC. That alone would have assured the success of the privatization program. NPC, however, continues to adamantly resist pleas from PSALM officials to attach such contracted capacities to any NPC assets being sold. It has become clearly obvious that NPC is sabotaging the government's privatization program. This is not surprising considering that once its assets are completely disposed of, nothing will be left for NPC except rural electrification.

"The recent successful sale of the Masinloc power plant to a credible international conglomerate is a showcase of the magnitude of investments that may come into the country's power industry once the privatization of NPC assets graduates from its present snail's pace. The $930-million winning bid came as a welcome and pleasant surprise. Even the second highest bid of $710 million offered by First Gen exceeded the globally accepted standard of $1 million per megawatt.

"Thus, it is no great wonder why more than six years after the enactment of Epira, only a mere 28 percent of NPC's power generation assets have been sold, and not a single IPP contract has been transferred to private IPP administrators."

Double-edged

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT WAS MORE THAN A FEELING OF DÉJÀ VU, it was the sensation of being thrust right back into Erap's impeachment trial seven years ago. That was the Senate hearing on Vidal Doble's testimony last week.

What gave it a sense of history repeating itself was the spectacle of the Queen's loyal, and legal (or legally minded) cohorts mounting a full-scale attack on Doble's testimony. In the main by questioning his capacity to tell the truth, several of them inevitably playing with, or preying on, his name, which means "double." I grant it's hugely inviting. But people named Dick and Joker should really not press their luck.

That was how it was too seven years ago, Erap surrounding himself with all those lawyers in three-piece suits, led by no less than ex-Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, invoking the majesty of the law to put one obstacle after another in the path of ferreting out Erap's lawlessness. Estelito Mendoza, Marcos's favorite lawyer, fired the first broadside by depicting Chavit Singson as an utter blackguard, which he probably is, to which Joker Arroyo replied magnificently that legalistic ruses were too thin a curtain to hide the humongous crime of betrayal of public trust. What a difference seven years make!

A Senate hearing of course is not an impeachment trial, but in this case it might as well be so. It is at least so in the public mind. Indeed, what the Senate hearing lacks in scale, it more than makes up for in starker contrasts. The lines in the impeachment trial were more blurred, the proof of Erap's wrongdoing more vague. Compared to Doble, Singson was far more assailable. His belonging to the den of thieves worked both ways: It made him out to be both a person in the know and one who could not be trusted. And all the prosecution had to go by was his word.

Doble has no such problem. Quite apart from his word, the "prosecution" has several other things to go by. At the very least, they have the "Hello Garci" tape. That may not be playing in the halls of the Senate, but it is playing in the public mind. Courtesy not of GMA's fiercest detractor but of her appointed defender, who is the press secretary. It is a crime to play or listen to the tape? Then jail Ignacio Bunye. He it was who gave the world to know of its existence and contents.

While at this, what gall Miriam and Johnny (didn't we see them making fools of themselves in Erap's impeachment trial?) have claiming to defend our civil liberties by refusing to accept a clandestine recording of their boss screwing the voters. These are champions of civil liberties who never once emitted a squeak to protest the disappearance of Jonas Burgos and the massacre of journalists and political activists in our midst. No, more than that, these are champions of civil liberties who would foment terror in the form of an anti-terror law that makes it legal to bug people who are merely screwing their mistresses. Defend our Bill of Rights? Too late.

Just as well, there's that sorry excuse for a shepherd of the flock, Bishop Socrates Villegas, who delivered the one sheep that most needed protecting to the wolves hovering around the campfire. Villegas' justification is that he loved the seminarians so much and worried for their safety. He shouldn't press his luck either as the public might interpret his loving them in quite another light. I do know some officials and seminarians of San Carlos seminary, and I know that there is little love lost between them and him. Certainly, there is little love lost between them and what he did to Doble. Not even the worst friars during Spanish times gave up the rogues and murderers that sought sanctuary in their churches to the Guardia Civil. And Doble only proposed to help the Church in its work, which was to reveal the Truth. Healer, heal thyself? Shepherd, guide thyself.

And finally there's Doble himself. GMA's defenders in the Senate may imagine they are denting his credibility by dwelling on his changing testimony, but they are in fact merely demolishing their own. At the very least, Doble's apparent doubletalk merely draws attention to why he double-talked, which is his perfectly believable claim, backed up by a trail of evidence, that his family was abducted. At the very most, well, how do GMA's allies think they look defending GMA by calling her accusers liars? That is like defending Romeo Jalosjos by calling his jailers perverts. Doble did not swear to do something at the grave of Jose Rizal and did the opposite. Doble did not say "I…am…sorry," which is the biggest lie of all about the biggest crime of all. You are sorry, you step down.

Liar, liar? Guess who better fits that job description.

But what gave me the sensation of being thrust back into Erap's impeachment trial is something the King's loyal, and legal, army did not see then, and something the Queen's loyal, and legal, army do not see now. That is that in the end, the ones sitting in judgment over this hearing are not the senators, they are the People. That is that the final judgment rendered here will have nothing to do with legality, or legalism, it will have to do with morality, or justice. Unbeknownst to Erap's legal luminaries then, a tale was unfolding in the impeachment trial, which was a tale of Good vs. Evil. Unbeknownst to GMA's legal luminaries now, a tale is unfolding in the Senate hearing, which is a tale of Good vs. Evil. It was at the very moment of Erap's victory, one of his defenders at the Senate even dancing like Salome over the head of John the Baptist, that he fell. It is at the very moment of GMA's victory, her defenders in the Senate toasting to their lawyerly cunning in preventing the truth from coming out, that she will fall.

Victory is double-faced. Defeat is doble-edged.

The Argentinean amparo

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

IN MY COLUMN LAST WEEK I WROTE ABOUT the birth of recurso de amparo and its development in Mexico. In Mexico it is used as a remedy against acts by any authority that violate any of the individual guarantees recognized by the Constitution, whether the matter be criminal, civil or administrative.

From Mexico amparo rapidly spread through Latin America. It is now found in one form or another in Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru. It is now also the mandado de seguranca of Brazil and the amparo in Argentina. In all of this, however, the all-purpose scope of the Mexican amparo has not been copied. Rather, the imitations have generally limited themselves to amparo as a quick and efficacious remedy for violations of fundamental liberties. From the little reading I have made on the subject I find the Argentinean development particularly interesting and perhaps of some relevance for us.

Up until the middle of the twentieth century the only federal relief for violations of constitutional rights in Argentina were an action leading to a declaration of unconstitutionality and the writ of habeas corpus. Thus people deprived of rights other than physical liberty must seek relief through "ordinary course of administrative and judicial proceedings, which was arduous, expensive and lengthy."

What seems to have started amparo in Argentina was a freedom of the press case combined with a right to work case. A lower court found that a constitutional right had been violated but the court could not give habeas corpus relief because physical liberty was not involved. In reversing the lower court decision, the Supreme Court said that even in the absence of a specific law granting redress, redress was available from the Constitution itself. The Court argued: "[I]ndividual guarantees exist and protect individuals by their simple entrenchment in the Constitution and independently of any regulatory statutes.... Declarations, rights and guarantees are not, as one may be led to believe, mere theoretical formulas.... Constitutional precepts as well as the institutional experience of the country jointly demand the full enjoyment and exercise of individual guarantees for an effective vigor of the rule of law, and impose upon the country's judges the duty of insuring them." Another decision even expanded the scope of amparo to cover infringement of individual rights by private individuals.

Thereafter statutory developments followed which specified the acts which could be remedied by amparo, the procedural considerations and the judgment that could be rendered.

The acts included were primarily acts of public authority. But amparo was made inapplicable to acts of the judiciary and official acts related to national defense. Amparo would not lie either where it could lead to a judgment that would "directly or indirectly compromise the regularity, continuity and efficacy of performance of a public service, or to the development of activities essential to the state." Moreover, the illegitimacy, illegality, or arbitrariness of the impugned act must be clear and undisputable without any need for an extensive legal or factual debate. In other words, the applicant's right to obtain an amparo must be manifest and uncontestable.

Sometime later the federal legislature adopted another statute governing amparo against acts of private individuals.

Procedurally amparo was seen as essentially supplementary. Thus administrative remedies must first be exhausted and where ordinary judicial remedy was available it must first be used. But the proceeding, like habeas corpus, would be summary.

What judgment can follow? Mainly it would be mandamus or injunction. The judgment could not terminate with a grant of monetary redress or with a penal sanction except perhaps as punishment for contempt. A declaration of unconstitutionality could also be made, but the judgment, like those of our lower courts, would not constitute stare decisis and would only bind the parties.

I suspect that the amparo remedy being contemplated by our Supreme Court will come out in form and substance analogous to that of Argentina and not that of Mexico. It will be limited in scope, characterized by summary procedure and limited in the kind of judgment that can be imposed. It would be an emergency procedure aimed at suspending the effect of violations of constitutionally protected rights.

It will be noticed, however, that the Argentinean amparo developed with statutory support. Will our Court be able to do something similar without statutory support? I support that the answer to that question will depend on how our Supreme Court reads the scope of the relevant constitutional provision. Our Constitution mandates the Supreme Court to "promulgate rules concerning the protection and enforcement of constitutional rights." Is this a delegation to the Court of whatever power is necessary to protect and enforce constitutional rights? During the deliberations of the 1986 Constitution Commission, former Chief Justice Roberto Conception and Commissioner (now Justice) Adolf Azcuna declared that the addition of this provision was meant to emphasize the lesson that constitutional rights are not merely declaratory but are meant to be enforced. I read this as a signal to the Court to do whatever is necessary.

All quiet on the southern front

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

ASIDE FROM THE SOLO FLIGHT OF A NOCTURNAL spy plane days ago, and a few negligible mortar firings, nothing much of late has disturbed the uneasy peace in this so-called war zone.

But Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga, who visited the troops in Jolo last week, announced in a television interview that there would be no let-up in the operations against the Abu Sayyaf and other lawless elements. He also said that while they respect religious and cultural traditions, such operations will continue even during the holy fasting month of Ramadan which begins on Sept. 12.

Nonetheless he gave the assurance that they would not be targeting communities or civilians, only specific "personalities" and groups, a.k.a. "terrorists."

"*Hindi kami mamamatay-tao*," he emphasized.

Allaga sounded sincere enough in his dialogue with a group of civilians, but to most of us, his assurances don't offer even cold comfort.

How we wish military operations, offensives, wars, etc. could be so programmed and so conditioned that they would play out accordingly, or better still, that fate could conspire so we can "mold it nearer to our heart's desire."

I have lost my copy of Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace" but if I recall correctly one great battle was triggered by a mindless shot at a snake. It doesn't take much more for a mere "operation" against specific "personalities" to explode into a full-blown "war."

More than anyone else in his area of responsibility—Central Mindanao, Zamboanga Peninsula, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, a geographical configuration that is predominantly Muslim or "Moro"—Allaga knows this.

The point is, why the hurry? Why the urgency? Why is it so crucial to launch this operation or offensive or whatever at this time? Why can't it wait or be deferred until after the month of fasting?

No matter how well the government justifies this bad timing they can never convince the Tausugs in the countryside that Christian soldiers roaming all over their forests and orchards running after Tausugs who also have to fast but whom the "Christian" government has tagged as "terrorists," is justified.

This may strike some as an irrational statement but there are times when there is but a thin line between irrationality and reality. Any cultural anthropologist can validate the observation that indeed different cultures have different realities.

The bigger and more worrisome picture however is that this perceived cultural and religious insensitivity on the part of the government and the Armed Forces in particular underlies the fearless forecast that the AFP will never win the war in Sulu and other Muslim provinces, whether it is against the MNLF, MILF, the Abu Sayyaf, or even the Jemaah Islamiyah.

It will take more than words to convince the people that the "alien" forces of the government are invading their lands, killing their own and destroying their crops, homes and schools, to ensure their good health and well-being.

And for as long as the people are on their side, the Abu Sayyaf can always metamorphose from being "terrorists" to more docile farmers in just the time it takes to hide their Armalite rifles and change their shirts. Take my word for it, they don't even have to go home to do that. Any roadside store or hut is always willing to bury their guns and lend them a shirt, as long as it fits.

The countless programs to "win hearts and minds" conducted by the civil relations agency of the Armed Forces with every new command, every administration through four decades have done almost nothing to diminish the number of available recruits and leaders ever ready and willing to replace those killed.

Because while the military announces with glee the figures and even names of the dead, and trumpets their victories with the triumphant declaration that they have "neutralized" this or that group, the people mourn them as *parang sabil* or martyrs.

Therefore to announce that there will be "no let-up" in the military operations even during the month of Ramadan is a most serious religio-cultural infraction that can only worsen the sense of alienation of the people from the "Christian" government while reinforcing their sense of solidarity and empathy with the so-called lawless elements for the simple reason that they are Tausugs and they are Muslims.

But there is another side to this undue haste in launching the twin offensives on Sulu and Basilan and more so, the "fear and awe" strategy evident in the sheer number of troops deployed in these areas.

The overwhelming number of Marine battalions with their accompanying materiel and hi-tech war gizmos, described by some as "overkill" in the fight against ragtag bands, borders on the laughable, except that it hurts when we laugh.

The Senate is conducting hearings on the infamous "Garci" tapes; Jose Ma. Sison has been arrested and jailed; the verdict on the plunder case of deposed President Joseph Estrada will be handed down on Sept. 12; jailed former Navy captain Antonio Trillanes IV is now a senator; and we are all groaning under steadily rising prices despite a steadily growing economy as reported by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with her steadily low rating in all social surveys.

Maybe it is bad timing to conduct wars in Sulu and Basilan during the holy month of Ramadan, but there could be good timing in unloading Luzon of those loyal Marines.

For now, all is quiet on the southern front. But for how long?

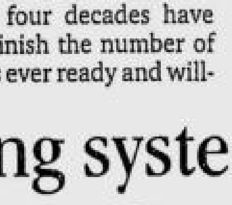
* * *

Comments to rubaiyat19@yahoo.com

Save the titling system

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



YOU MAY RECALL THAT ON FEB. 20, 2006, I wrote about a legal fight ("The value of a title"), just one of many cases in Caloocan where land-grabbing threatens to seriously undermine the credibility of the land titling system in our country. Property owners who acquired their properties in good faith, developed them, paid taxes on them, suddenly faced a claim by a lawyer that he, in fact, owned their properties.

That lawyer, Jose B. Dimson, claimed ownership of a very large property on the basis of a land title of doubtful authenticity but which, he claimed, predated the (up to that point) original title on which the subsequent titles of the property owners were based. Thus one claim affected dozens of properties. Despite evidence to invalidate that claim, Dimson's case kept winning in the courts. Property owners doggedly fought the spurious claim. One such group is composed of the Araneta Institute of Agriculture, Manotok Realty, Inc., Sto. Niño Kapitbahay Association, Inc. and CLT Realty Corp.

The legal fight between the group I mentioned above, and the person claiming their land, has revealed some interesting details since I last wrote about it.

The lawyers of the claimant, Dimson, besides admitting he'd never actually possessed the lands he claimed, said he had never paid taxes on them either (which is a way of asserting responsible ownership). What's more, Dimson's own lawyers admitted their client had never been a lawyer at all. So how could he have obtained ownership of the properties he said he earned by way of lawyers' fees?

Not to mention the impossibility of Dimson's claims as to the person who transferred the land to him being entitled to do so. Dimson said he got his title to the land as attorney's fees from a certain Bartolome Rivera. Rivera alleged in turn that he inherited his title as an heir of Ma. Concepcion Vidal. The courts, in the case of Republic v. Lilia Sevilla and Jose Seelin, held that "[t]hus, it is physically and genetically impossible for him [Bartolome Rivera] to be the grandson of Maria de la Concepcion Vidal." The Land Registration Commission, in a report dated August 3, 1981, pointed out that "[i]f Bartolome Rivera was 65 years old in 1963 or thereabouts, he was born on or before 1898. If Maria de la Concepcion Vidal was 9 years old on or before December 3, 1912, she was born on or before 1903. Could a grandson be older than his grandmother?"

Not to mention Dimson basing his claim on a title that, he claimed, predated the title of the Araneta Institute of Agriculture group. He said his OCT was dated Apr. 19, 1917. Those whose lands he wanted to take away could only point to an OCT dated May 3, 1917. But when Dimson's people were asked to produce their title, they could produce none. On the other hand, the aggrieved property owners demonstrated to the Supreme Court recently that only one OCT No. 994 existed: issued on May 3, 1917. No less than the Solicitor General then, Antonio Nachura, personally and formally presented to the Supreme Court en banc the original OCT No. 994 issued on May 3, 1917 (the original copy itself taken from the Land Registration Authority vault).

Reports of the Department of Justice and the Senate Fact-Finding Committee had also previously pointed out that Dimson's (alleged) OCT was fraudulent. The Senate, upon investigating the matter, said Dimson's so-called title was "a fabrication perpetrated by Mr. Norberto Vasquez, Jr., former Deputy Registrar of Deeds of Caloocan City" and by Atty. Yolanda Alfonso, Registrar of Deeds of Caloocan City, who "consented to the acquisition of the property by … her children adopting 19 April 1917 as the date of registration of OCT 994 knowing the same to be erroneous … is a clear case of dishonesty, malice and bad faith." We know Alfonso did these things, because the Court of Appeals affirmed the dismissal ordered by the Office of the President. The Supreme Court upheld the decision of the Court of Appeals.

The Department of Justice then issued a report stating that the two contested OCTs (Dimson's fake and the one present property owners derived their titles from) were never actually presented to the Supreme Court. What the Supreme Court used as the basis for saying there were two OCT Nos. 994 were the certifications appearing on the faces of the TCTs submitted by the two sides: but in truth, only one OCT No. 994 existed, issued on May 3, 1917.

However, complicating matters is that the Supreme Court issued a decision in another case, which upheld a Court of Appeals decision that there were two OCTs and which then upheld Dimson's as the original one. In a sense, the Supreme Court ended up trapped by the Court of Appeals' refusal to take judicial notice of the findings of the Senate and Department of Justice. If a court, however, took these reports into evidence, it would shatter some of the previous assumptions made by the courts.

These details, and many more, are now before the Supreme Court. It has embarked on reviewing a decision by one of its own divisions. This review presents a last chance for it to reverse the court's upholding of the Dimson fraud. With evidence aplenty to help rectify assumptions originally made by the courts, evidence gathered by the Senate and the Department of Justice, decades of lawful property owners being harassed and imperiled can come to an end.

The Supreme Court, acting as a whole, holds the preservation of the rule of law as it pertains to the ownership of land, in its hands. It can stem the tide of chaos in our titling system. Or it can open the floodgates to an epidemic of Dimson-style land-grabbing. A title can either mean something, or mean nothing: it can either be maintained by the rule of law or the law of the jungle.

A commanding officer stays with his troops

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST YEAR, WE MARKED THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF our graduation from the Philippine Military Academy. Center stage was shared with the class of 2006, the 324-strong batch with the largest number of women graduates. It was as though we were watching our own sons and daughters marching in formation, ready to assume their places in the long grey line that now stretches from one end of the parade ground to the other, practically covering Borromeo Field.

In the history of the PMA, perhaps no class has suffered so many casualties in so short a period of time. Barely a year after graduation, four of its members would fall to enemy fire. A fifth—its Presidential Sabre awardee for graduating at the head of the class—would fight a losing battle against disease. In the end, PAF Lt. Ariel Toledo of Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur, would not be able to survive the onslaughts of an enemy that has long been the scourge of mankind. A newspaper (not the INQUIRER) identified him as "the first Ilocano to become the topnotcher at the PMA." To be fair, there were others from the region who graduated at the head of their classes several years before Toledo. In our batch, the Class of 1956, Jose C. Bello of Candon, Ilocos Sur, finished as the class valedictorian. Nevertheless, we too join his fellow Ilocanos in mourning the loss of a young man whose life held so much promise not only for his family but also for the nation.

On a personal note, the Mandala Class of 2006 has a special place in my heart. In 2003, Maj. Gen. Melchor Rosales, now an interior undersecretary, was the superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy. He invited me to address the corps of cadets after a parade and review. At that time, the Class of 2006 made up the plebe component of the corps. In June 2005, Lt. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing, the PMA superintendent, would also invite me as the guest of honor during Incorporation Day rites at Fort Del Pilar. This time the Class of 2006 provided the officers commanding the brigade of cadets.

I wish to thank General Rosales and General Balaoing for their kind and generous invitation for me to speak before the cadets and to partake of the same simple meal that I used to have many years ago, surrounded by the young men who will some day lead our Armed Forces. My special thanks also goes to former AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu who I know was instrumental in my visit to the academy in 2005. General Abu is now a special envoy to the Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines-East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA). In the case of General Balaoing, I am informed that he has not been in the best of health during the past few months. I wish him a safe and speedy recovery.

* * *

One of the finest books on the Battle of Iwo Jima is a recent account written by Kumiko Kakehashi and published by Presidio Press, "So Sad to Fall in Battle." It is the story of the encounter between US Marines and Japanese army and navy units as seen through the eyes of the Japanese commander, Lt. Gen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi, one of the lesser-known figures of the Pacific War but one who was highly regarded by his adversaries.

* * *

Lt. Gen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi was the product of a middle school in Nagano. He went to the military academy and later attended the Army War College. In 1928, as a 36-year-old cavalry captain, he was sent to study in the United States. This was a special privilege for so-called "sabre squad" officers who had graduated from the War College. They were so named because they were personally presented with a sabre from the Emperor. Most of them would go to countries like Germany, Russia, Great Britain and the United States, with Germany being the most popular destination.

Kuribayashi chose to study in the United States and was attached to the US First Cavalry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas. He also found time to audit courses at Harvard and at the University of Michigan, and drove himself across the continental US. He developed a sense of the military and industrial might of America, based on these first-hand observations. In 1931, he moved to Canada where he served as the military attaché.

* * *

Iwo Jima has an area of only 22 square kilometers, but it had three airfields and was described as an "unsinkable aircraft carrier." It was here where Lt. Gen. Kuribayashi was assigned and given command of all forces on Iwo Jima. Immediately upon arrival, he proceeded to inspect every inch of the island on foot, starting with Mt. Suribachi, the highest point in the area.

The biggest problem he faced was how to get drinking water. There were no streams, no springs. The only source of drinking water was rainwater and this had to be stored in cisterns. He prohibited the wasteful use of water and was especially strict with senior officers. He was also concerned about what the soldiers ate. He forbade preparing food for officers separate from that of the ordinary soldier. He himself would follow this rule, making sure that he experienced all the discomforts of his men.

Kuribayashi was a puritan. No "comfort women" station was established on Iwo Jima and the repatriation of all women and children was completed seven months before the American assault.

When Kuribayashi took command of Iwo Jima, it was believed that like other commanders, he would exercise control from Chichi Jima, a nearby island, a safe place with abundant water and food. Instead, he stayed on Iwo Jima and did not leave the island until his death. It was only later during the battle that the Americans realized that the Japanese commander actually directing operations against them was on the island.

In the final all-out charge of a Japanese unit, it was customary for the commanding officer to commit hara-kiri behind the lines. This was not the case with Kuribayashi. He himself led the attack—not a banzai charge but a plan aimed at causing maximum confusion and destruction. A training document from the Self-Defense Force officers' school reads: "There is no other example in the history of the Japanese army where a division commander led the charge himself."

Kuribayashi was wounded in the right thigh and is believed to have died either from loss of blood or from his own hand. No one survived who witnessed the last moments of this commander who fought side by side with his men until his own death.

THEY SAID

Ingrate

"I stuck my neck out for him when he was being pummeled by the administration. I treated him like a real brother, a kid brother. He knew that I wanted to control that committee. If I were him, I would have declined it."

—Sen. Panfilo Lacson on Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano's appointment as chair of the blue ribbon committee

'Collect & dump' a disaster

AGAIN, GARBAGE IS A MAJOR HEADache for politicians and citizens of Metro Manila.

Local leaders, led by Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos who is also the president of the Metro Manila Mayors' League, are in a fix following the decision of the local government of Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) to increase the garbage collection fee. Rodriguez hosts the waste disposal facility currently used by the 10 cities of Metro Manila.

As a knee-jerk reaction, Abalos is urging the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to find a new dumping ground within six months. Meanwhile, other local leaders are begging Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo to postpone the fee increase for two months to give local governments time to adjust their budgets.

Our leaders unwisely use the people's money while most of us, the taxpayers, are forced to wade in dirty waters with every onslaught of heavy rains. In some unlucky communities, children and old people alike literally swim alongside garbage.

We are again spending millions of public funds just to clean up clogged waterways or pay local government units that are willing to become the dumping ground of our garbage, sacrificing the health of communities in the process.

Bad governance and lack of awareness are a recipe for disaster.

Just last Aug. 10, a portion of the Payatas dump collapsed again. Luckily, there were no human casualties this time. However, this dump releases 63 million liters of leachate per year, thus continuously polluting the groundwater of Quezon City.

The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act has already provided local government units with a comprehensive framework on how to properly address solid waste and pollution.

Some communities in Metro Manila are segregating their waste but the trucks continue to collect and dump everything together in sites like those in Payatas and Rodriguez, which should have already been closed since 2006. Segregating waste at source and composting biodegradable waste will lessen emission of methane gas and help mitigate global warming.

Ensuring that every barangay is ecologically managing its own waste is more cost-effective and sustainable. It will empower citizens to be conscious of their environment and it makes sure that our meager public funds are not squandered on costly waste disposal systems that put our health and environment at risk.

The "collect and dump" waste management system only makes corrupt individuals and politicians richer at our expense.

—REI A. PANALIGAN,
coordinator, EcoWaste Coalition,
Unit 320, Eagle Court Condominium,
26 Matalino St., Quezon City

Wanted: transparent, reasonable power fees

THIS CONCERNS THE LATEST REPORT of Meralco re the Automatic Generation Rate Adjustment (Agra) mechanism.

In the July billing statements of Meralco, a four-paragraph update on Agra was highlighted with the announcement.that the generation charge to be paid by the consumers for the month of July was P5.6764/kWh. To alleviate the impact of this news, Meralco of course had to deliberately omit any reference to the fact that this figure was originally P4.42/kWh as of August 2006. Hence, within a period of one year, the generation charge increased by P1.26/kWh.

Regardless of public opinion on the unpopular Power Purchase Adjustments (PPA), the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira) still deregulated the generation sector. Hence, for lack of authority on the part of the Energy Regulatory Commission to control the prices fixed by the independent power producers (IPPs) of Meralco, the generation rate charged by Meralco to its customers cannot be expected to stop from skyrocketing.

The recent approval of the amendments to the implementing rules of Epira makes matters worse. Such amendments eliminated the necessity of publication before any adjustment in the generation charges may be made. "Automatic" is the word used in Agra, and it does imply a violation of the right of the consumers to due process.

The clientele of Meralco is already bleeding financially because of the upward trend in the generation rates. With this development on "automatic" adjustments, the ordinary paying consumers will bleed more. Worse, it will be too dire because it is now impossible for them to see what will hit them as their right to be informed on the matter of rate adjustments has been taken away.

Enough of euphemisms. What we need is an urgent and genuine reform in the power industry. The consumers deserve transparent and reasonable prices of electricity.

—RAMMEL L BONAVENTE,
coithram@yahoo.com

Farmers, fisherfolk are Landbank's top clients

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO THE LETTER, TItled "Carping about CARP," of Stephen L. Monsanto. (INQUIRER, 8/24/07) Please allow us to clarify two erroneous points raised in the letter.

One, Monsanto alleged that "farmers, to them [Landbank], are all deadbeats."

On the contrary, Landbank has identified the farmers and the fisherfolk as its mandated clients and key development partners in promoting economic growth in the countryside. Landbank thus concentrates its support on these and other priority sectors, namely: microenterprises and SMEs, livelihood, agribusiness, agri-infrastructure, agri-related and environment-related projects.

While most commercial banks shy away from lending to farmers and fisherfolk, both of which are considered high-risk, Landbank leads in extending credit to them. As of June this year, Landbank's total loans to its priority sectors reached P79.1 billion, representing 70 percent of the bank's total loan portfolio of P112.7 billion. Of this amount, the outstanding loans to its mandated clients—small farmers and fisherfolk—reached P15.3 billion coursed through 809 accredited cooperatives and 301 countryside financial institutions.

For the first half of 2007, Landbank released P7.5 billion, benefiting more than 171,000 small farmers and fisherfolk nationwide. These loans bankrolled such economic activities as crop production, livestock and fishery ventures, agricultural services and marketing.

Two, Monsanto said that Landbank branches are "nestled right smack in urban centers."

Among the country's commercial banks, Landbank holds the distinction of being present in all 81 provinces of the country. It is present in far-flung areas such as Batanes, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. Landbank has the most extensive network spanning across the nation—with 323 branches and extension offices. Its presence in the countryside is primarily to service the banking requirements of the rural communities, particularly the farmers and fisherfolk, the SMEs and micro-enterprises, the local government units and other key sectors that Landbank considers as development partners.

—AGUSTIN F. A. APILADO,
assistant vice president,
Corporate Affairs Department,
Land Bank of the Philippines, Malate, Manila

Torture charges untrue

MAY WE COMMENT ON TONETTE OREJAS' article titled "Marcos-era form of torture stays alive in the Army." (INQUIRER, 7/15/07)

The alleged torture of a certain "Guiao" by soldiers of the 69th Infantry Battalion is not true. He was invited and not forced to report to the 69th IB. He has actually signed a certificate that he was released unharmed on the same date. Furthermore, the five personalities mentioned in the article never showed up to make a statement, but they were later identified by the villagers as communist terrorists.

The troops of the 69th IB and 24th IB operating in the area of Pampanga were actively promoting peace; hence, the acts of violence allegedly committed by them are all false charges purposely designed to discredit the military in the area. It is clear that Karapatan is spreading this propaganda against the military to project a negative image of these units.

The 69th IB welcomes an investigation regarding the matter. A formal complaint has yet to be filed in court, but the matter has already been directly brought to the attention of the media, which is not the proper forum for resolving the case.

—MAJ. FERNANDO M. LOS BANES,
chief/spokesman, Public Affairs,
7th Infantry (Kaugnay) Division,
Philippine Army,
Fort Ramon Magsaysay, Palayan City

Hail the Pinoy pugilists!

I AM SO PROUD OF THE FILIPINO BOXERS who are making a name for themselves and bringing great honor to the Philippines.

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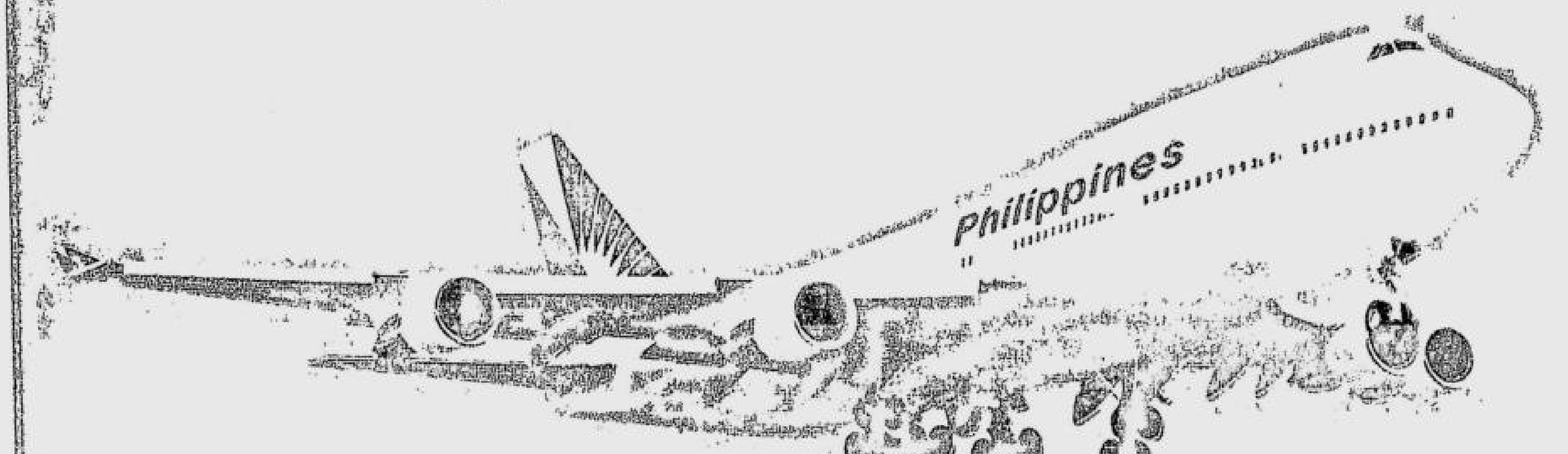
—DON OLYMPIA,
donolympia@msn.com



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Reds in exile fear for comrades in RP after police raid

By Jerome Aning, and Delfin Mallari
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC Front of the Philippines has asked a Netherlands court not to allow the release to Philippine authorities of documents seized in connection with the arrest of communist leader Jose Ma. Sison last month because it would endanger the lives of many people.

In a statement released Saturday, NDF International Information Office executive director Ruth de Leon said that simultaneous with the arrest of Sison on Aug. 27 in Utrecht, the Netherlands, the Dutch police raided seven homes of members of the group. They seized computers, flash memory drives, digital cameras and other items that contained information about people who had been in touch with the NDFP, the political wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines whose leaders are on self-imposed exile in the Netherlands.

"The lives of these persons will directly be put in danger if these (information materials) are given over to Philippine authorities or to foreign intelligence services such as the United States' Central Intelligence Agency," NDFP lawyer Bernard Tomlow had said in a letter earlier this month to Judge Commissioner LK van Zaltbommel of the court in The Hague that is hearing the case against Sison.

De Leon said Tomlow reminded Van Zaltbommel that "hundreds of persons have been murdered, some in a brutal manner, since President Arroyo took power in 2001, among them journalists, judges and lawyers, a bishop, priests, students and teachers, and human rights activists."

"It is not unthinkable that Netherlands authorities will be responsible for new murders, if the information will be traded," Tomlow added.

Tomlow asked the Judge Commissioner for the immediate return of the articles taken during the house searches, stressing that other members of the NDFP to whom the seized articles belonged were not suspects in the case against Sison.

Sison, 68, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, was arrested in connection with the murders in the Philippines of former communist rebel leaders Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara in 2003 and 2006, respectively.

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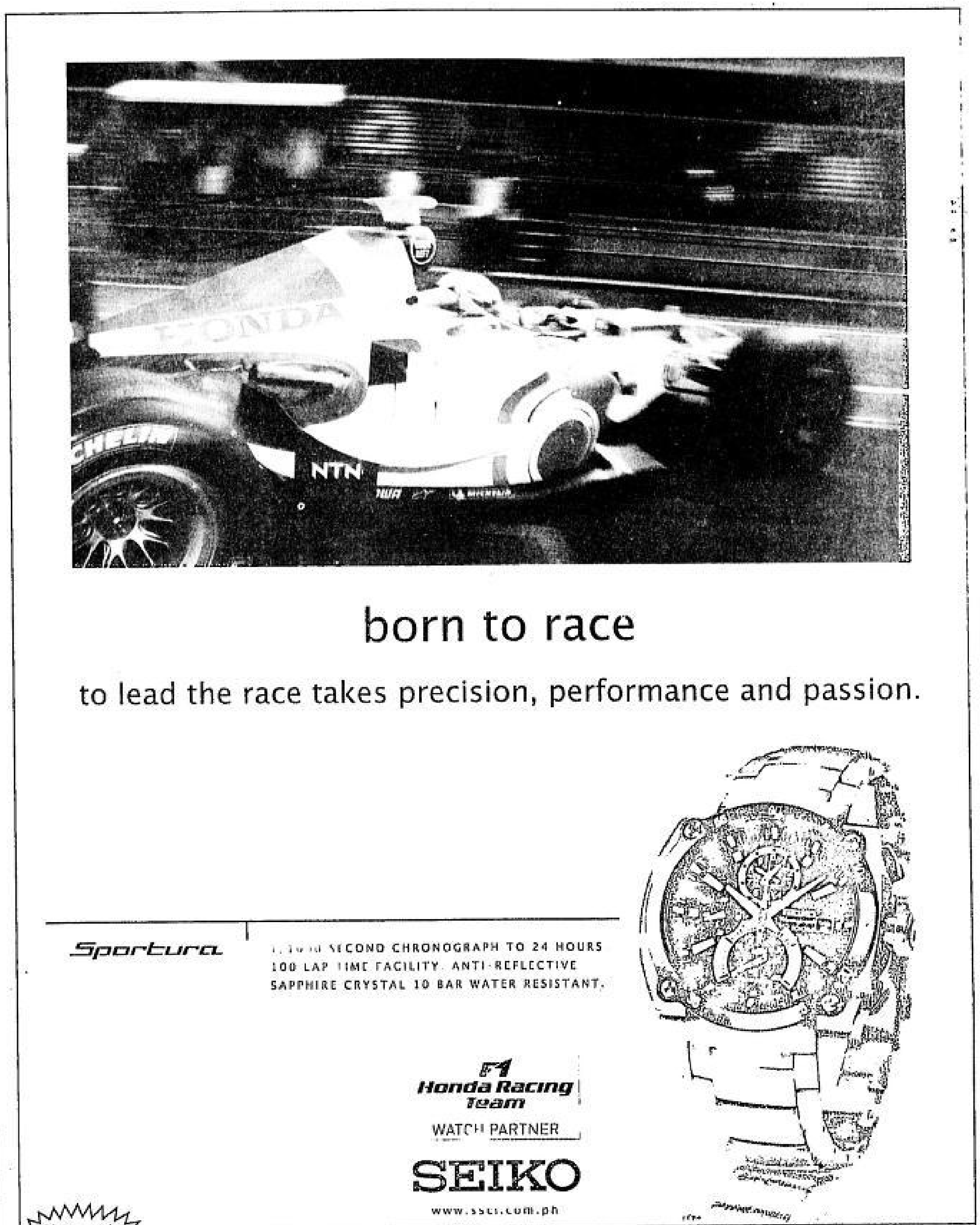
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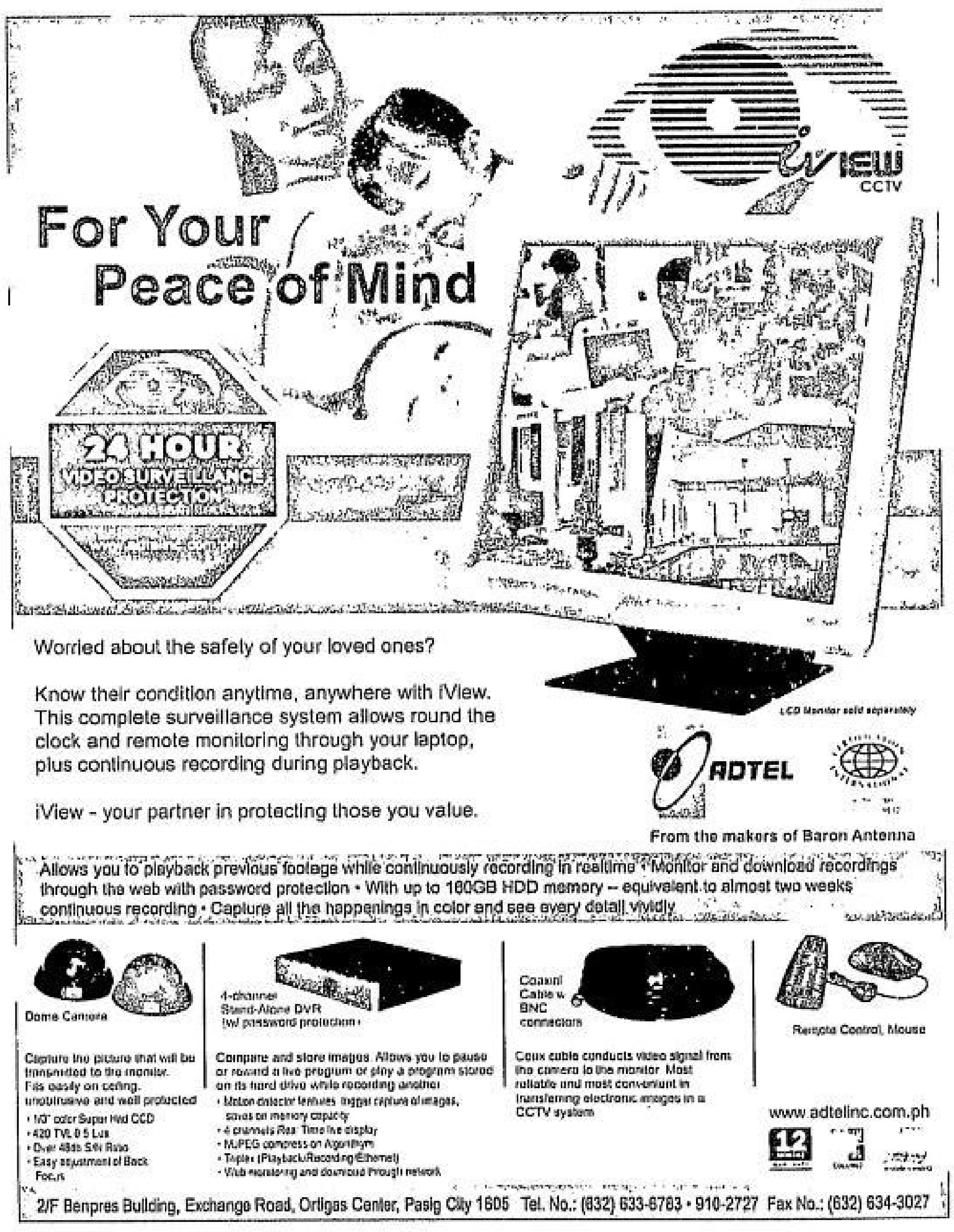
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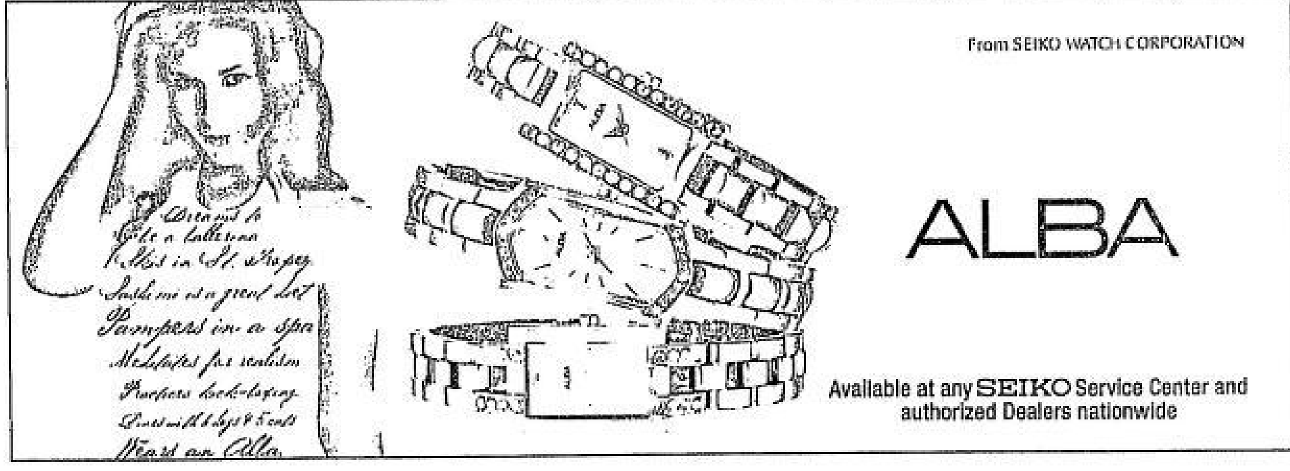
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Abalos impeachment eyed

From page A1

the impeachment issue, declined to identify the official.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves has acknowledged that he had met with ZTE executives twice—at his home in Ayala Alabang last year and at the Wack Wack Golf Club in Mandaluyong City a few months ago. Abalos, he said, was present on [illegible] occasions.

Hontiveros said [illegible] lawmakers were [illegible] selves a "reasonable [illegible]" of two weeks to [illegible] build the case.

The Cabinet official was among several people identified at a minority caucus Monday afternoon as possible sources who could provide the goods against the Comelec chair.

Hontiveros said these people could either serve as primary sources or could lead them to more information on Abalos' alleged involvement in the controversial deal.

"It is a work in progress," she said. "We are looking for high-quality documentary evidence."

The chair and commissioners of the Comelec can be removed only through the impeachment process. An impeachment complaint must get at least one-third or 79 votes in the House so it could be forwarded to the Senate for [illegible]

"A business[illegible] was [illegible]

bribe would [illegible] overprice [illegible]

Big [illegible]

Aside [illegible] two [illegible] ties—[illegible] tle One [illegible] the kick[illegible] tract. [illegible] yesterd[illegible]

"A [illegible] suppo[illegible] 14 mi[illegible] millio[illegible]

DOTC officials and the rest of the usual boys," said Lacson. [illegible] who refused to identif[illegible] cipients but gave [illegible] his later comment[illegible]

Trips and [illegible]

The House [illegible] Rep. C[illegible]

called unnamed source. "How can you answer [illegible] un[illegible]

peachment complaint against Abalos should involve pieces of evidence "of greater volume and quality" than those in ordinary cases.

"At this point, we believe that the allegations are very serious," she said. "If they constitute an impeachable offense as [illegible] days unfold, it will [illegible] our [illegible]lative duty to build a strong [illegible]chment case."

[illegible] the planned complaint [illegible] not be limited to Abalos' [illegible] complicity in the ZTE [illegible] secondary ground [illegible] alleged [illegible] Abalos' [illegible]

impeached because [illegible] the ZTE deal," she said. "[illegible] will put on record the [illegible] election offenses he has committed."

In the Upper Chamber, Senate President Manuel Villar said canceling the ZTE contract was the "proper action" to take.

"There are many things which need to be explained, many personalities involved concerning a huge amount, and we could not even justify why we need to borrow a substantial sum when specifics have not been set," he said.

Sen. Francis Escudero said the contract was "unpopular, dirty and stinking."

A lawyer of AHI, the Filipino firm that came up with the unsolicited proposal for an NBN, said the company would address the alleged [illegible]-million bribery attempt [illegible] Abalos in a congressional inquiry.

Marinelle O'Santos said AHI was offended when the deal was awarded to ZTE despite its superior proposal for a national broadband project in terms of both cost and technology. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

P2 trillion w

From page A1

pine Administrative Network Project (PANP) and the Philippine Research, Education and Government Information Network (Preginet).

The 31 ongoing and proposed ICT projects, plus the two existing government broadband networks, are the precursors of the NBN that would add about P15 billion to the more than P2 trillion that was already spent and would be spent on the government's ICT projects.

Aside from the P15 billion that the Philippine government would borrow from China for the NBN, which was awarded to Chinese firm ZTE, another P23 billion would be borrowed from China for the Department of Education's CER.

The CER was likely to be handed to ZTE's competitor, Huawei, also a Chinese firm.

Two UP economics professors, Raul V. Fabella and Emmanuel de Dios, said in a paper that it defied logic for government to own one broadband network, much less two.

Their paper was unable to study the implications of government having actually four broadband networks.

equip[illegible] the PAN[illegible] cording to Ma[illegible] who had first-h[illegible] of the French Proto[illegible]

Preginet's funding [illegible] P5.2 billion, which [illegible] rowed from the Japanese government through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the implementing arm of Preginet, [illegible] on its website that Preginet [illegible] "nationwide broadband netw[illegible] that interconnects academic [illegible] stitutions, government of[illegible] and R&D (research and dev[illegible] ment) centers in the Philipp[illegible]

In June 2000, the DOST [illegible] Preginet P24 million to st[illegible] first year of a "high-[illegible] mance research and ed[illegible]on network."

"Preginet lets users [illegible] transmit and receive [illegible] ge amounts of data nation[illegible] and integrates some existi[illegible] rnment information net[illegible] into a common network [illegible] ne," said the Preginet web[illegible]

The project listi[illegible] which was attached as ann[illegible] the Medium Term Philip[illegible] velopment Plan (M[illegible]) for 2004-2010 shows [illegible]

The pro[illegible] hundreds [illegible] of proposed [illegible] already b[illegible] drawn from government [illegible] a computer contract [illegible] declared invalid by the Su[illegible] Court.

The computers are currently kept in a Comelec-rented warehouse in M[illegible]

Machine[illegible] passports

Anothe[illegible] computerization project w[illegible] Department of Forei[illegible] (DFA) that sought t[illegible] hand-manufactured [illegible]s and visas with mac[illegible]able ones.

It cost [illegible] under a BOT project th[illegible] life span of 10 years. Th[illegible] has recently started issuing machine-readable passports.

Yet another computerization project was for the Department of Labor and Employment

the iss[illegible] and ot[illegible] ments, in many [illegible]

Birth ce[illegible]

The N[illegible]stics office, that [illegible] popu[illegible] known as t[illegible] that is[illegible] copies of bi[illegible]ficates, [illegible] the beneficia[illegible] 2.1-billion BOT project [illegible] computerize its operations and [illegible] up the processing of [illegible]ents.

A computer[illegible] project of the Bureau of Internal Revenue was listed as having a budg[illegible] P4.4 billion.

Another broadband-rel[illegible] project was for the Commis[illegible] on Higher Education (CHEd [illegible] administer the interconnec[illegible] of 100 state universities [illegible]

[illegible] centers [illegible] and pub[illegible] accessible to all [illegible]

[illegible] had already [illegible] billion of loans from [illegible] the MTP that in[illegible] 2,460 telephone lines in [illegible] villages in the provinces of Quezon, Negros Oriental, Lanao del Norte, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Nueva Vizcaya and Misamis Occidental.

But the lines are now dead and the MTP fell apart as the use of cellular phones became more common.

Too poor to pay

It also proved to be a losing financial venture because most of the lines were installed in areas where poverty was so pervasive that people could barely afford three meals a day, much less pay for phone calls.

"Technology overran it (MTP)," said one official who took part in implementing the MTP.

"These guys working on the NBN and CER should learn lessons from the MTP," said

Boao, China, shortly before she witnessed the signing of the NBN deal with ZTE on April 21, 2007.

"In the Philippines, we are investing aggressively in the IT backbone," said Ms Arroyo in the speech. "We are bringing the Internet to every high school."

It wasn't clear whether, at the time Ms Arroyo said those words, her administration had already outlined what it wanted in terms of ICT projects other than to connect all government offices through a broadband network and all public high schools to the Internet.

Written by President

But in a portion in the MTPDP dealing with ICT projects that Malacañang officials said Ms Arroyo herself wrote, the President was well aware of what the problem in the ICT area was—the lack of private sector participation.

"The absence of clear and concise policies allowing innovative and more efficient services at lower costs has discouraged the entry of new players and further investments in the (ICT) sector," Ms Arroyo wrote in a situationer on Digital I[illegible]

GMA to bring [illegible] businessmen to [illegible]

From page A1

Key members of Ms Arroyo's abinet and the country's iggest names in business will join the trip.

Listed as Philippine delega[illegible] 2007 Busin[illegible] Eduardo [illegible]

Doris Magsaysay[illegible] and CEO of M[illegible] Companies [illegible] members of the Ap[illegible] Advisory Counc[illegible]

Bush. He sa[illegible] War was "not exactl[illegible]pular in his country an[illegible] demonstrations were expe[illegible]

Brunei, Ca[illegible] Indonesia, Malaysia, [illegible] Zealand, [illegible] Thailand [illegible]

pines would send a "clear and strong message" to Apec abo[illegible] its long-term economic achievements and preparedness [illegible] compete economically on [illegible] global scale.

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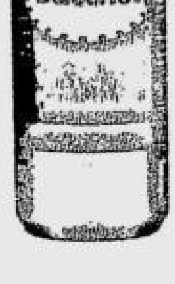

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Erap sees 102-yr-old mother in hospital bed

From page A1

meeting between deposed President Joseph Estrada and the ailing 102-year-old Mary Ejercito at her bedside in an isolation room at the San Juan Medical Center.

On Wednesday, the Sandiganbayan Special Division will hand down its verdict in the 6-year-old trial of Estrada, accused of illegally amassing P4 billion from gambling payoffs and tobacco tax kickbacks, and of falsely declaring his assets.

Opposition leaders said they expected Estrada's supporters to hold demonstrations to coincide with the verdict. The police are mobilizing about 6,000 troops around the courthouse and at Malacañang.

Connected to life-sustaining machines, Estrada's frail mother managed to give her 70-year-old son a "very brief" gaze to acknowledge his presence before going back to sleep, the aide said.

The visit lasted just three minutes.

Talking with the INQUIRER later, Estrada rejected the thought of unhooking his mother from the machines, although the final word on whether to pull the plug was his. He said he was leaving it all up to God.

"We'll wait up to the last breath," Estrada said, lamenting the timing of two major events in his life—his mother in hospital lying seriously ill and the Sandiganbayan about to issue its verdict.

The court gave the ousted President a 10-hour pass yesterday to visit his mother before the Sept. 12 promulgation.

Ferdi Ramos, Estrada's media liaison, said the mother-and-son encounter ended with the son retreating to a room hurriedly prepared for him just across from his mother's.

There, Ramos said, Estrada sat by himself on a plastic chair at the foot of an empty bed, trying to seek solace in the silence in the room.

'I don't know what to do'

"He did not mention anything about the promulgation on Wednesday," Ramos said. "It was enough for him that his mother saw him."

Moments later, former Sen. Ernesto Maceda came into the room to chat.

"I cannot talk to my Mama anymore. She's in critical condition. I am at a loss, I don't know what to do," Estrada said when reached by phone later in the afternoon after meeting with his lawyers at his residence on Polk Street, Greenhills.

Estrada's siblings—Pilarica, Paulino, Patrocinio and Marita—were also at the hospital. Estrada was seen to be holding back tears.

Ramos said he overheard Estrada consoling his brothers and sisters with these words: "Be strong. Don't worry about me."

No politics, please

In Sydney, Australia, where she was on a visit to attend a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum, President Macapagal-Arroyo brushed off questions on the forthcoming Estrada verdict.

"No, I don't discuss politics," Ms Arroyo told reporters. "I told you, only Apec issues."

Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro chairs the Special Division; Associate Justices Francisco Villaruz Jr. and Diosdado Peralta are the members.

Politicians flocked to Estrada's home on Polk Street yesterday to offer "moral support" to the former President. They included Senators Manuel Villar, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Panfilo Lacson and Manuel Roxas II, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez and Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Binay said Estrada's supporters were planning to hold rallies on judgment day.

To those who harbor "malicious" thoughts about the gatherings, Binay assured them that they would hold peaceful rallies.

Asked if there would be a repeat of Edsa 3—the angry 2001 march of Estrada supporters to Malacañang culminating in a riot outside the Palace gates—both Binay and Navotas City Mayor Toby Tiangco said they could not assure anyone that there would be no repeat of the Palace siege.

"We don't know what the people's feelings will be," Binay said.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, Estrada's son and coaccused in the case, urged his father's supporters to "pray for an acquittal." Starting today, the Estrada family will hold a vigil at Polk Street to pray for his father's release, he said.

Erap confident

A statement read to reporters by Rodriguez said Estrada was confident the court would acquit him.

It said Estrada would accept the court's decision, noting that the people "have already acquitted" him.

"The lawyers recognize that it was just not a criminal trial but more of a political one … The President and his counsel are still hoping that the Sandiganbayan will decide the case based solely on the merits and on no other considerations," the statement said.

Estrada and his lawyers—Jay Flaminiano, Jose Flaminiano, Rene Saguisag and Estelito Mendoza—met at Polk yesterday to discuss their legal moves in case of an acquittal or a conviction.

They also talked about last-minute pleadings to the Sandiganbayan, including their request to air live the promulgation of the decision.

A quiet life

If acquitted, Estrada said he would go straight to the nearest church to thank God "for the vindication of his name."

If convicted, Estrada said his counsel would file a motion for reconsideration and appeal the sentence to the Supreme Court.

"As to where he will be detained pending appeal of his case, he will likewise leave that to the court's wisdom. Whatever the decision of the Sandiganbayan, he will accept it," Rodriguez said.

Estrada is ready to live a quiet life if the court acquits him, the congressman said.

"He will not reclaim the presidency of which he was unconstitutionally ousted. He said he would act as an elder statesman to give advice on governance and nation-building with preferential attention to the poor," Rodriguez said.

Security was strict during Estrada's San Juan visit. The antigraft court prohibited him from giving interviews, forcing the media to resort to ambush interviews.

Lorenzo Hocson, the Estrada family physician, said Mary Ejercito's condition was "stable and guarded," a month after she was admitted to the hospital with pneumonia.

Hocson said the physicians attending to the Ejercito matriarch constantly update Estrada on his mother's condition, including the two minor surgeries she underwent recently.

Hocson said the doctors had to insert a tube in her throat to help her breathe and a feeding tube in the left side of her stomach.

Because of her age, it has been difficult for doctors to stabilize her condition and completely eradicate her pneumonia, Hocson said. But she can still hear and understand anyone who talks to her, he said.

Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the chief prosecution witness against Estrada,. said yesterday he was "very, very confident that the evidence presented (against Estrada) was overwhelming to merit his conviction."

Singson claimed Estrada's admission that he signed as "Jose Velarde" in a bank document clinched the prosecution's case. "I think (it was the) final nail," he said. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Leoncio Balbin Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

9-hour Filipino film …

From page A1

Venice Film Festival on Saturday.

The top prize went to "Wuyong (Useless)" by China's Jia Zhangke.

Diaz and Zhangke won against such name directors as Jonathan Demme and Julian Schnabel. Last year, renowned director Spike Lee won the award in this category for "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts."

"Long live Philippine Cinema!" Diaz proclaimed in his acceptance speech. "In spite of all the madness in this world, it's still a nice place to live in. We still have cinema. We have the Venice Film Festival. I would like to thank all the people who worked so hard for this film for nine months."

Earlier, the cast and crew walked the red carpet. They were met by Venice Film Festival director Marco Muller who posed with them for pictures. Then he guided them inside the screening venue for the start of the "Encantos," which was given the closing night honors.

The new work of Mindanao-born Diaz, described in the festival website as "one of the astonishing new South East Asian auteurs," bested entries by filmmakers from around the world, including name American filmmakers.

Reviewing 'Reming'

A mixture of documentary and fiction, "Encantos" tells the story of a fictional Filipino poet, Benjamin Agusan, who returns to his hometown in Padang, Bicol, in the aftermath of the destruction and tragedy wrought by Supertyphoon "Reming." Agusan had spent several years in Russia on a scholarship grant.

The jury of the Horizons (Orizzonti) Documentary section watched "Encantos" in two installments. Paolo Bertolin, who helped the festival by coordinating with Diaz, told the INQUIRER that the jury's screening for "Encantos" was held on Thursday evening and Friday morning.

Diaz worked frantically to finish the film in time for the festival's jury and public screenings. Diaz, Bertolin and the festival organizers heaved a collective sigh of relief when the "Encantos" tapes finally arrived on Tuesday.

Sharing the film's triumph in Venice with Diaz, who was also the cinematographer and editor, are production supervisor Laurel Peñaranda, production designer and actor Dante Perez, actors Roeder Camanag (who plays fictional poet, Benjamin Agusan), Perry Dizon (Teodoro) and Amalia Virtucio (*albularya* or quack doctor).

Send-up to father

Diaz acknowledged the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) for giving them travel grants and National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) executive director Cecile Guidote-Alvarez for helping secure the group's visas and plane tickets.

"Encantos" mixes documentary and fiction. In an e-mail interview, Diaz described his film and his main character, Agusan: "I created Benjamin with no particular Filipino artist or persona in mind. My subconscious merely flowed with all the threads that ended up with the lead character in the nine-hour film. But, Benjamin's journey is familiar terrain for the aesthetic traveler—the search for beauty, real love, redemption, and for answers that could push humanity to greater heights."

He added: "The Russian bit is a send-up to my late father, although he never went to Russia. Yes, I know how it feels to be alone in distant lands—I know about solitude and sorrow, so I know Benjamin Agusan."

Asians rule

Taiwanese director Ang Lee's sexually explicit spy thriller "Lust, Caution" was the surprise winner of the top award at the Venice film festival, just two years after he won with "Brokeback Mountain."

The movie is a World War II thriller set in Shanghai featuring long and sometimes violent sex scenes Lee has hinted were real.

The verdict means Asian directors have won the Golden Lion on the Lido waterfront for the past three years.

The Silver Lion for best director went to US filmmaker Brian De Palma, whose "Redacted" shocked audiences with its brutal reconstruction of the real-life rape and murder of a 14-year-old Iraqi girl by American soldiers in 2006.

Best actress, actor

Todd Haynes, one of six US productions in competition, scooped a runner-up slot with "I'm Not There," his conceptual biopic about singer-songwriter Bob Dylan.

In a bold piece of casting, Australian-born Cate Blanchett was one of six performers to play the singer-poet Bob Dylan at various stages of his life, and it paid off when she was named best actress in Venice.

Hollywood star Brad Pitt was the surprise winner of the best actor award for his portrayal of legendary outlaw Jesse James in "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford." *With reports from Laurel Lee Peñaranda and Reuters*

Apec steel fences rented from Bayani?

From page A1

pagal-Arroyo noticed the concrete and steel fences put up in this city to protect the 21 leaders in the two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit which ended yesterday.

"I wonder where they rented the steel fences," Ms Arroyo quipped during an almost two-hour chat with reporters in her suite at the Four Seasons late Saturday night.

"Fernando," one reporter said.

Ms Arroyo laughed and said: "That's everybody's joke. You all remembered Bayani when you saw the fences," referring to Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Fernando's ubiquitous pink fences on Edsa and the Apec's grey fences in Sydney looked like they were cast from the same mold.

Reportedly Australia's most stringent security lockdown in its history, the 10-foot high steel fences sealed off most of the city's central business district, the areas surrounding the Opera House and the hotels where Apec leaders US President George W. Bush, Chinese President Hu Jintao, Russian President Vladimir Putin and even Ms Arroyo were billeted.

As part of the security, Blackhawk helicopters flew over Sydney and its airspace was declared a no-fly zone. Royal Australian Navy ships patrolled the harbor, there were divers scouring the waters and more than 1,500 personnel of the Australian Defense Force were deployed around the city.

The government had declared a holiday on Friday and most Sydneysiders, turned off by the security lockdown, reportedly left the city while the world's most powerful leaders mixed business with pleasure during the Apec days.

Ms Arroyo used woman power to the max at the Apec summit, prompting Bush to whip out his pen and take notes.

She also charmed her way to an informal meeting with Hu, who yesterday invited her to attend the special Olympic World Summer Game in Shanghai next month. Ms Arroyo accepted.

Aside from Bush and Hu, Ms Arroyo met with Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi, New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and Thai Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont on the sidelines of the two-day Apec summit which ended yesterday.

Ms Arroyo surprised reporters and her own officials when she broke the news that she already had meetings with Bush, Hu and Badawi, as well as with Clark and Chulanont which were not on her schedule.

She said her meetings took place during coffee breaks or while they were waiting for the Apec sessions to begin.

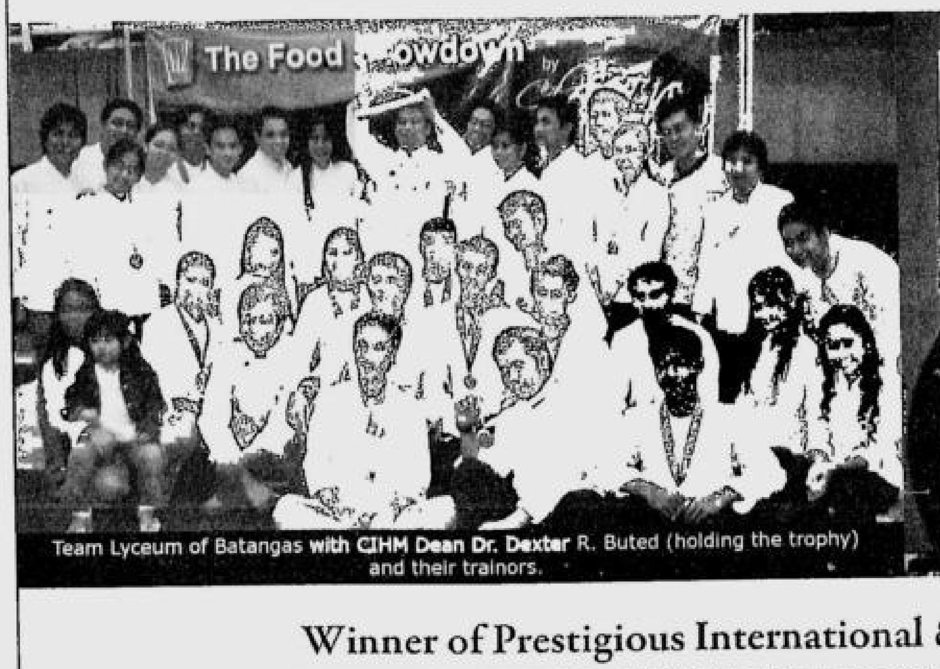
While waiting on Saturday, Ms Arroyo and Badawi decided to sit down and talk although their bilateral meeting was set for Sunday. *(Story on Page A24.)*

"That's the style now. It's more practical," she said of the informal "pull-aside" meetings.

Ambassador Marciano Paynor Jr., chief of presidential protocol, said pull-asides were, in fact, more substantive and more significant than the formal sit-down meetings that are planned in advance.

In pull-asides, the leaders are just talking to one another, without their ministers and staff getting in the way, and they can talk more freely even on contentious issues, according to Paynor.

Although her formal bilateral meeting with Bush was cancelled on Friday, Ms Arroyo managed to get Bush's ear in two informal encounters where she made sure the US president would remember his promise to support the Filipino veterans bill, military aid for the purchase of firepower and vessels for the "South Coast Watch" border patrol against terrorists, and the construciton of roads and airports in Sulu and Basilan.



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Zambales gov't probes relocation site

RAINS and winds erode the soil below this building.

TONETTE T. OREJAS

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The Zambales provincial government has asked officials of Subic town to release documents pertaining to a relocation project funded by a South Korean firm, and repair and complete the site's facilities.

The relocation site in Sitio Agusuhin was funded by the Hanjin Heavy Industries Co. Ltd. for about 400 families displaced by its $1.684-billion shipbuilding project in Subic since April.

The provincial government's Task Force Hanjin has requested at least eight kinds of documents and answers from Mayor Jeffrey Khonghun through a letter on Sept. 3.

Documents

These are the certified true copies of the program of work, plans and specifications of all projects listed in Hanjin's purchase order for P18 million worth of construction materials for 33 public facilities in May, building permits issued to the contractor, and "change order" that authorizes the realignment of identified projects to the construction of four school buildings.

It also asked a list of actions taken by the mayor's office and municipal board to address the ongoing concerns and problems of the residents, master plan of the relocation site, certified true copy of the environmental compliance certificate issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the relocation site, and copies of certificates of titles to the residents.

The task force, headed by former Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II, had found "several structures missing and damaged" at the upland relocation site located off the coast of the Redondo Bay.

Khonghun told the INQUIRER on Sunday that he received a copy of the letter and that he would furnish the task force with documents.

He said structures were damaged because the "contractors rushed with work since the residents did not want to leave and Hanjin and the [Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority] already want the site."

SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza said it was the representatives of Hanjin, not SBMA's, who negotiated with the residents for compensation damages.

Khonghun and former Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay denied handling the P24-million budget as payments for demolished houses.

Funds

Khonghun also said he could not accede to the requests to repair and complete the structures since there were no more funds for these.

He said a Department of Public Works and Highways team had assessed that the contractor, North Bound Hardware and General Merchandise, had spent P22.5 million for the structures on site.

Cost

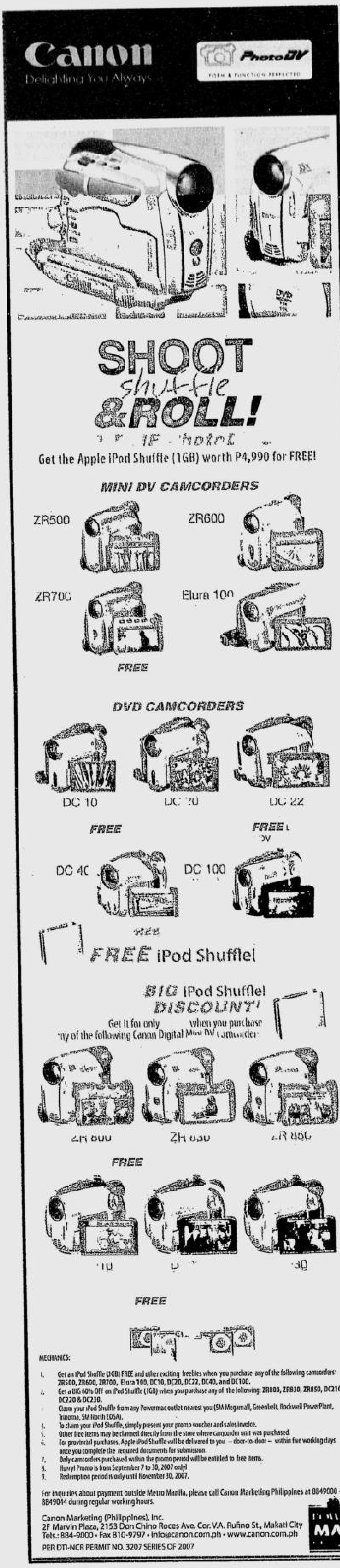
An Inquirer source at the DPWH, however, said the structures on site cost only P3 million.

Hanjin, in a March 2006 amended lease agreement with Khonghun and Arreza, said it should be "free from any cost overrun or any other demands whatsoever from any entities in relation to the project beyond the [P18 million] sum."

Improvements

Khonghun said the town government could improve the relocation site with the help of the SBMA and the national government.

The task force, on the order of Gov. Amor Deloso, has asked the Subic government to demolish two damaged school buildings, construct a footbridge, build three elevated water tanks, do slope protection works, improve the roads and drainage system, and provide electricity to the site. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*



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BCDA exec OKs third-party evaluation of expressway

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A TOP official of the Bases Conversion Development Authority has not opposed a proposal of a private advocacy group to do an independent engineering evaluation of the P27-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway now that the project is in its final stage of construction.

"*Walang problema* (There's no problem)," BCDA executive vice president Isaac Puno III said after he spoke to leaders of the Advocacy for the Development of Central Luzon (ADCL) who capped here their inspection of the Bataan-Pampanga segment of the 94-km highway on Saturday.

However, Puno said there were "already several redundancies" in that undertaking.

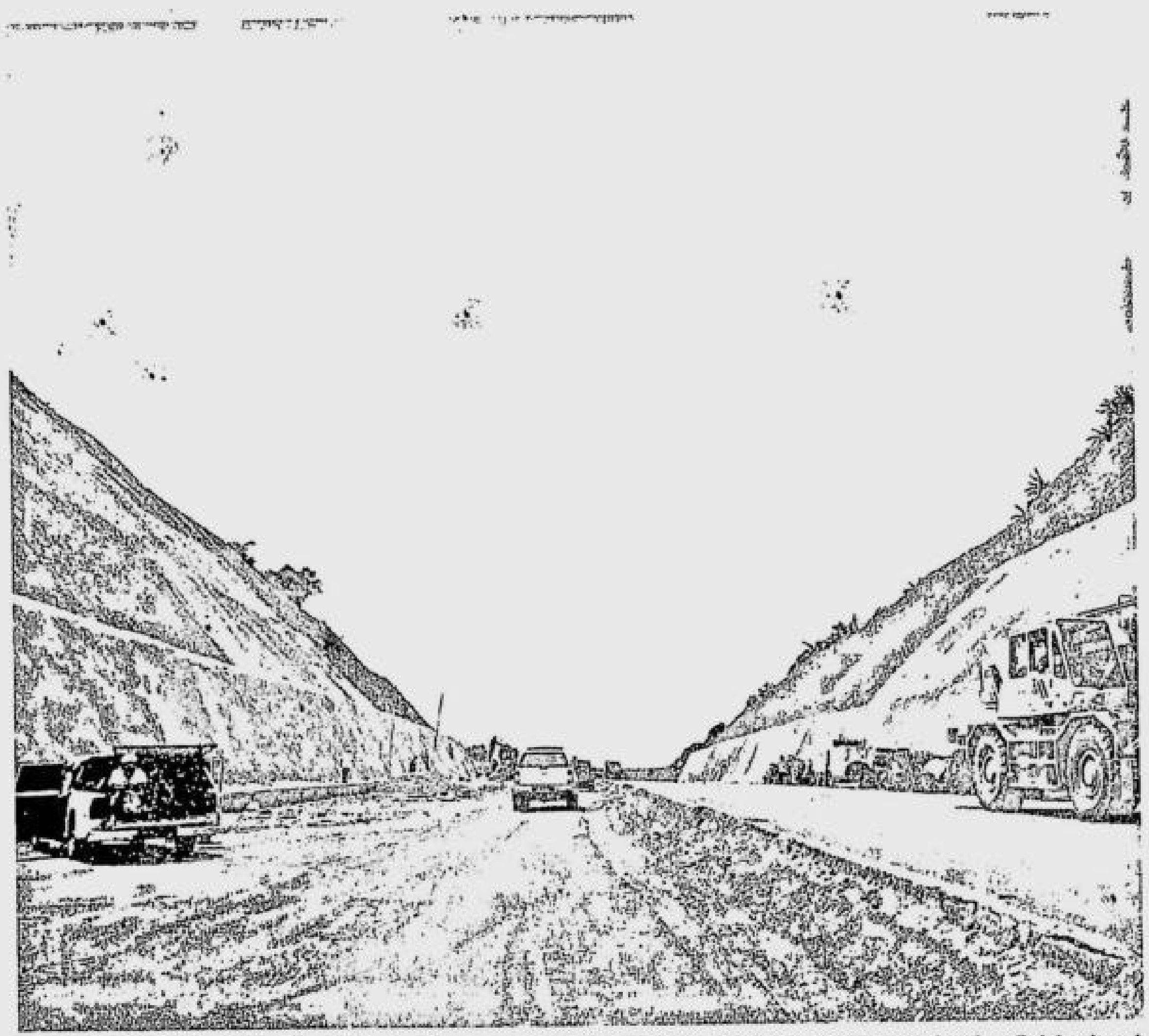
"Aside from our consultants, we have an inter-agency [constructors performance evaluation system or CPES] group and a quantity surveyor that's looking at what the contractors are doing. We have a different group that's doing the punch listing (quality evaluation). We also have the [Toll Regulatory Board] that is doing an independent certification [of work] and then there's the Commission on Audit," Puno said.

The BCDA, as the proponent of the SCTEx, has hired the Japanese consulting consortium Pacific Consultants International, Katahira and Engineers International and Nippon Koei Co. Ltd.

The BCDA has two CPES teams comprised of government engineers, according to Regina Salvi Lapuz, BCDA contracts management chief.

BCDA president Narciso Abaya, in an earlier statement, said punch listing or the process of conducting a quality checklist for every 20-meter sub-segment is being done by SCTEx project managers.

Puno said the evaluation is done "to protect the interest of the government and the contractors."



PORTIONS of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway on the Bataan-Pampanga side remained unfinished and the contractor has seven months more up to March 2008 to complete what government touts as a world-class highway.

TONETTE T. OREJAS

The Philippine government has obtained a P23.06-billion loan from the Japanese government and shelled out P4 billion from BCDA funds to build this major infrastructure that links the Subic and Clark freeports and the Luisita Industrial Park in Tarlac City.

The loan comes with an interest rate of 0.95 percent, grace period of 10 years and repayment period of 30 years.

BCDA's contractors—Kajima-Obayashi-JFE Engineering and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. Joint Venture (KOJM) on the Bataan-Pampanga side and Hazama-Taisei-Nippon Steel Joint Venture (HTN) on the Pampanga-Clark side—have incurred delays largely due to right-of-way problems.

KOJM, now 87 percent done with its work, has been given four months more up to March 2008 to finish its 50.5-km segment. HTN, already 97 percent finished, has been allowed a 54-day extension up to October to complete its 43.27-km portion, according to Roberto Gervacio, SCTEx manager for operational support.

With five groups doing the evaluation, Puno said: "*Talagang salang-sala na yan* (It is really being thoroughly evaluated)."

He did not say though if the evaluation proposed by ADCL needed the nod of the BCDA board.

"We are open. Nobody is stopping anybody [from conducting an evaluation]," Puno told ADCL chair Rene Romero.

Puno encouraged some 30 business leaders of ADCL to continue involving themselves in monitoring activities because the SCTEx's final phase was the "most critical stage" of the project.

"We want it to be finished according to standards," he said.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

ROUNDUP

British funds cops' training

PARANG, Shariff Kabunsuan—The British government has earmarked some $49,000 for the training of Marawi City policemen in a bid to turn them into model law enforcers, Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) police, said.

Aside from training the police force on crime documentation and community policing, the British government will also construct a new police station there, Goltiao added. "This is big help for our cops. Once completed, we will make the police force there as our model in the entire region," Goltiao said.

Marawi City would be the second recipient of the British-assisted project that aims to standardize systems and procedures; technical and equipment capabilities and physical infrastructure of police stations nationwide. Earlier, the Marikina City police also received the same assistance.

Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

Davao pact with China city

DAVAO CITY—The cities of Davao and Nanning, China signed a friendship pact to boost trade, commerce, investments, tourism, education and culture.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said there were no specific investments discussed between the two cities yet but he hoped that deals could be signed anytime soon.

"China is buying almost everything. China is ready to invest. China holds a great promise to catch up with the rest of world. We have the resources, raw materials but China has the money," Duterte told reporters at the Marco Polo hotel here during the signing.

Duterte said Davao businessmen will fly to Nanning in October. "We will be bringing trade delegates, businessmen and investors and that is a good start," he said.

Nanning Mayor Chen Xianggun said the visit would be an opportunity for Davao businessmen to show their products. He also said he was hoping that the future business deals between his city and Davao would result in the opening of an air route between the two cities.

Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao

3 persons slain in ambush

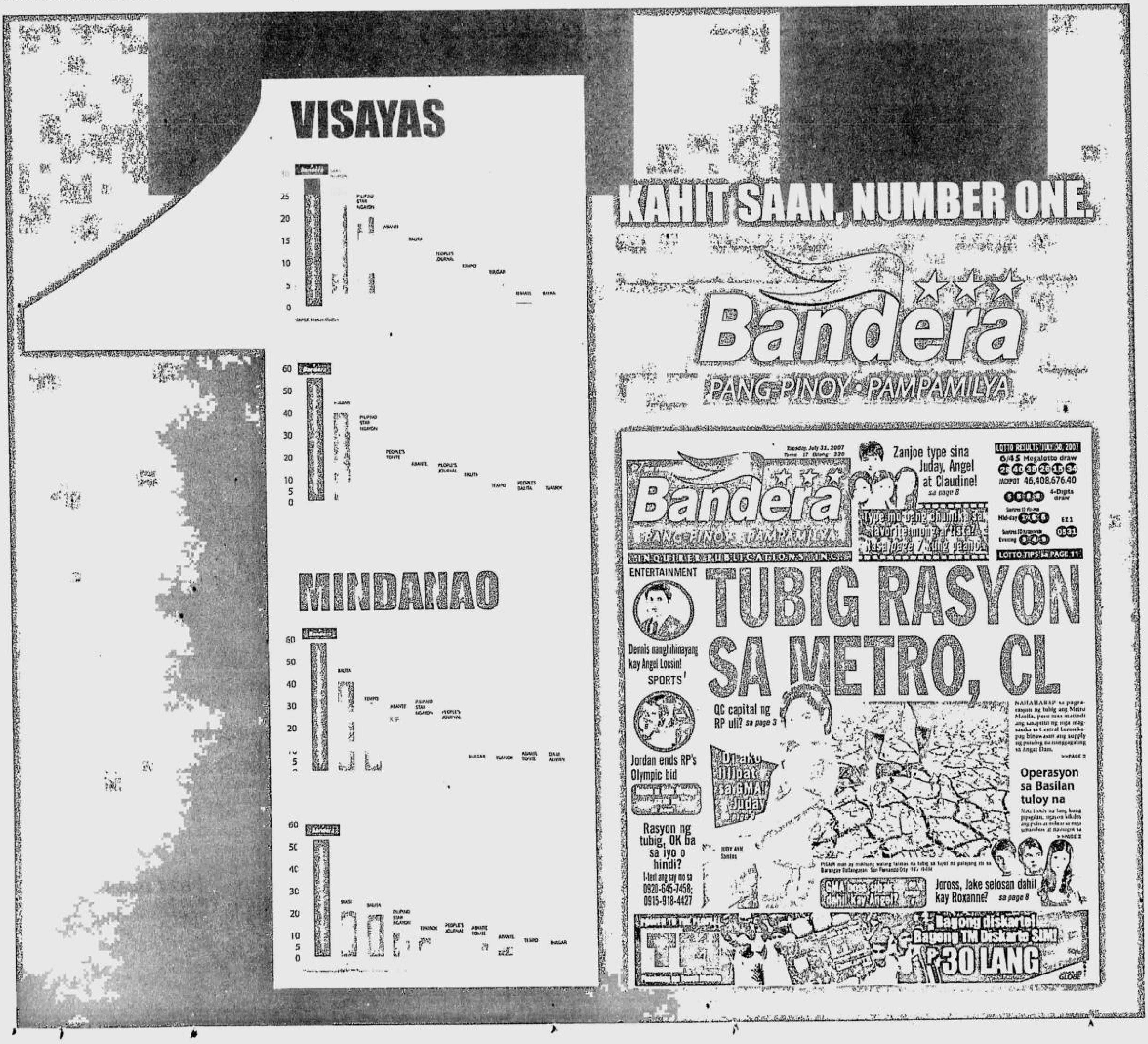
MATALAM, North Cotabato—Three people, including a member of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), were killed during an ambush staged by unidentified gunmen here on Sept. 2, an MNLF commander reported.

Datu Dima Ambil, chair of the MNLF's Sebangan Kutawato State Revolutionary Committee (SKSRC), identified the victims as his close-in security escort, Ryan Onotan, 25, Bersola Mulod, and 13-year-old girl Bainot Maugan.

Ambil said the three victims were on their way home from a wedding around 11:00 p.m. when attacked near Ilian village.

"He (Onotan) was the main target. We are looking into love triangle and perhaps, agaw armas, because his M-16 rifle was missing," Ambil said.

Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao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Firm behind Romblon oil leak lacks ECC

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—The shipping company behind the salvaging operation of a sunken sea vessel that led to an oil leak off the coast of Romblon did not have a environment clearance certificate (ECC) to conduct blasting operations in the area, a police official said on Thursday.

Romblon police chief Senior Supt. Mario Velando also revealed that Mayor Lemuel Cipriano of Concepcion town had allowed Eduardo Calixto Enterprises to retrieve the wreck of MV Mactan despite its failure to present pertinent documents for the activity.

He said the mayor had already suspended the operation of the shipping company upon confirming the oil leak on Wednesday, a day after it was first reported.

"That's the problem. The mayor allowed the operation to proceed even though the company had no ECC and necessary permits," Velando told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Explosives

When asked if the mayor was aware that the personnel behind the salvaging operation were using explosives, he said: "Of course. The mayor knew it."

Asked why the local police allowed the blasting operations if it did not have any ECC, he replied: "Because they had a permit from (Camp) Crame for the explosives."

He also admitted that the place where the blasting activities happened was near the line of coral reefs, which is home to hundreds of sea plant and animal species.

"If there would be somebody who should guard the area, it should be the mayor's men," he argued.

Velando said the compartment containing the fuel might have been damaged by the explosives used in the salvaging operation, thus causing the leak.

But he maintained that the leak was just "minimal" and did not pose any serious threat to marine life in the area.

Ill-fated ship

He said the company, which supposedly owned the submerged passenger ship that sank sometime in 1973, had been recovering parts of the wreckage since 1999.

He said that from the time the company started retrieving the ill-fated ship, its personnel used explosives to cut its metal portions.

PO1 Joel de Castro, case investigator of the Romblon police, said the shipping firm sold whatever it recovered from the derelict.

De Castro said his office was informed of the oil leak after residents held a protest rally to denounce the activity of the company.

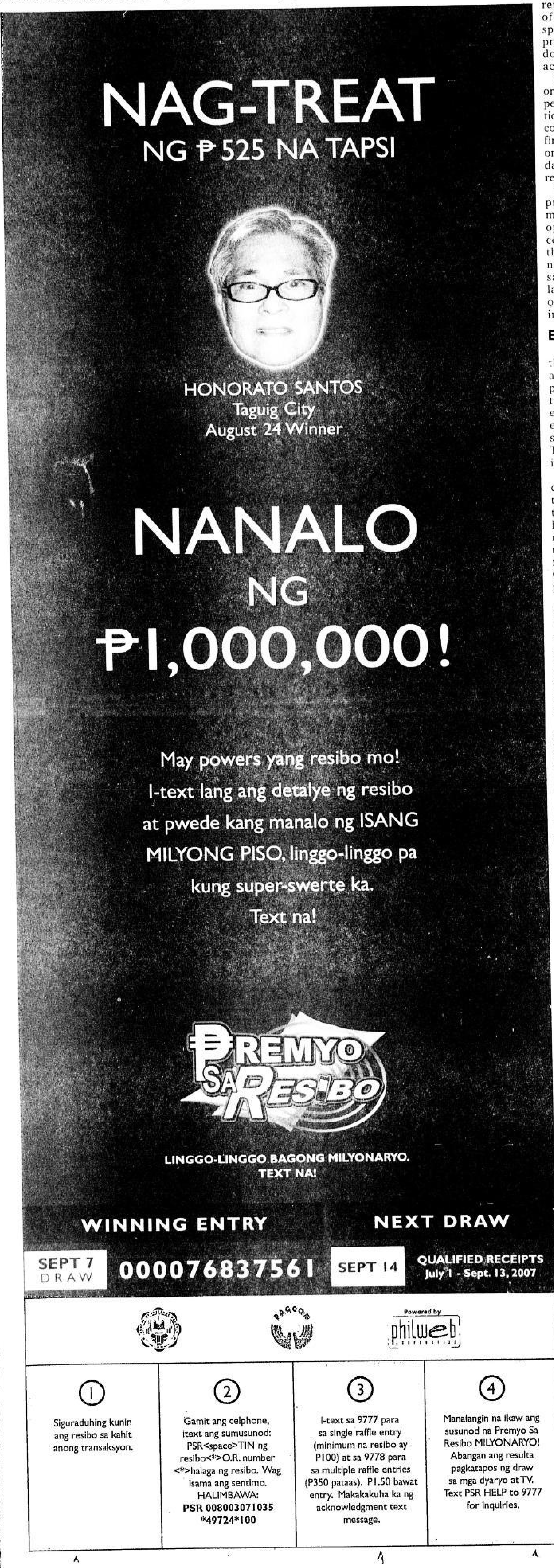
The wreck, he said, was located just a few kilometers away from the coastline of Barangay Magadia and within the municipal fishing grounds.

He said the fishermen feared that the liters of oil sheen that were washed ashore could adversely affect their health and livelihood.

He said that based on their initial inspection, the contaminant on the water was crude oil.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

PEÑAFRANCIA RITES
The nine-day Peñafrancia fiesta, which starts on the first Friday of September, attracts mostly male devotees.
Msgr. Romulo Vergara, rector of Our Lady of Peñafrancia Basilica said the local Church prepares for the biggest event of the decade when the tricentennial celebration of the devotion to the Ina culminates on 2010. From 2007 to 2008, the image of the Ina will visit all the 300 parishes in Bicol, covering six dioceses and one prelature. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON



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4 provinces in E. Visayas with disaster-prone areas

By Ven Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—GOVERNMENT experts have identified four provinces in Eastern Visayas, along with 23 others, as having areas that are high-risk to landslide and flooding during the rainy season.

Salvador Estudillo, Office of Civil Defense (OCD) regional director, named the Eastern Visayas provinces as Leyte, Southern Leyte, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar.

Other provinces with disaster-prone areas are Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Bohol, Aurora, Pampanga, Cavite, Catanduanes, Zambales, Antique, Ilocos Sur, Abra, Zamboanga del Sur, Laguna, Quirino, Agusan, Nueva Vizcaya, Cagayan Isa-bela, Zamboanga Sibuquey, Rizal, Iloilo, Ilocos Norte and Benguet.

The OCD identified these provinces in its Hazard Mapping and Assessment for Effective Community-based Disaster Risk Management project.

Also known as the ready project and funded by the United Nations Development Program, it identifies disaster-prone areas through the production of multihazard maps, develops information education and communication strategies and materials, and installs community-based early warning systems.

Estudillo said the project would encourage concerned municipal and barangay governments to review their development plans and come up with ordinances to reduce the risk of disaster.

In Leyte, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau has identified 602 of the 1,341 barangays assessed early last year as landslide-prone, said Karlo Queaño, senior science research specialist of the MGB.

Of the barangays assessed, 117 were found to have high landslide susceptibility, 240 have moderate susceptibility, and 245 have low susceptibility.

The remaining 739 villages were found to be not susceptible to landslide.

Leyte has 1,641 barangays, but some far-flung barangays were not reached during the rapid assessment on landslide and flooding susceptibility conducted by MGB geologists from April 21 to May 12, 2006.

The assessment was conducted shortly after the February 2006 landslide at Barangay Guinsaugon of St. Bernard town in Southern Leyte, which buried and killed over 1,000 people.

Since then, the government has produced multihazard maps that include topographic maps for floods, landslides, storm surge, and earthquake- and volcanic-related hazards.

Queaño was one of the discussants in the seminar-workshop on the results of the multihazard mapping in Leyte held in the city. He talked about landslide hazards in Leyte.

Rainfall, earthquake or man-made activities could trigger landslide particularly in areas where the slopes are steep, Queaño said.

Signs of impending landslide include leaning doorjambs and windows, cracks in concrete floors and walls, cracks in roads that gradually grow, leaning of trees, poles and retaining walls, and rumbling that increasingly becomes louder.

Care programs for reporters of disasters urged

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—JOURNALISTS have called on news organizations to institute care programs for reporters covering disasters and emergencies so they would not be traumatized by these events.

Twenty journalists from regional newspapers in the Visayas, who attended a three-day seminar on reporting on disasters and emergencies organized by the Philippine Press Institute and the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), said reporters, who extensively cover traumatic experiences and deal with victims, face the risk of psychological trauma.

They recommended in a workshop that news organizations orient their reporters before they are sent to cover emergencies and disasters. Tips on dealing with disaster victims and survivors, especially those suffering from trauma, should be part of the orientation.

The reporters should also undergo debriefing after covering disasters and emergencies. They said reporters assigned to cover disasters and emergencies should be rotated to avoid trauma and other psychological effects of regularly covering these events.

Disasters and emergencies are among the biggest stories covered by journalists in the Visayas. Reporters last year extensively covered the Guinsaugon landslide in Southern Leyte and the massive oil spills in Guimaras.

While conscious of maintaining objectivity and detachment from the events they cover, reporters are not immune from mental and emotional stress that could result to trauma, said Dr. June Pagaduan-Lopez, a trauma expert of the University of the Philippines Department of Psychology.

Pagaduan-Lopez, one of the seminar speakers, said journalists were among the most vulnerable to psychological trauma because they were expected to be present even in the most harrowing experiences and events.

"Journalists cannot be immune [to the impact of the disasters, armed conflicts and emergencies] even if there is pressure to be detached from the situation," she said.

She said she had known of cases where reporters exposed for a long time to remains of flood or landslide victims manifested signs of trauma only when they had returned to newsrooms or their homes.

Journalists, who are expected to take even the most gruesome sights in stride, could manifest trauma through drinking, gambling and verbal and physical abuse of family members.

Pagaduan-Lopez said reporters could also experience "vicarious traumatization" for listening to accounts of victims and survivors during interviews. The psychological and emotional impacts accumulate when these are continuously suppressed, she said.

"We don't know what toll it is taking on reporters," she said.

She said traumatic events could "shatter" the spiritual values and beliefs, as well as the sense of safety of a person. These also lead people to isolate themselves.

Aside from debriefing sessions, news organizations should also rotate the reporters assigned to cover disasters and emergencies to remove them from the potentially traumatic environment, she said.

But the psychiatrist said one of the most effective way of dealing with stress and trauma in covering disasters and emergencies was for reporters to write positive stories, especially of survivors and those showing and reaffirming human courage, sacrifice, faith and goodness.

"Positive stories are also healing for reporters," she said.

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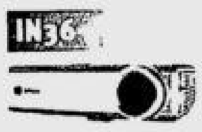

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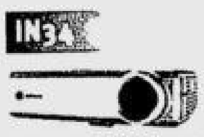

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GMA heeds Badawi call for peace

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SYDNEY (VIA PLDT)—WITH MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi prodding her, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the Philippine government will resume peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front at "anytime."

Ms Arroyo said Badawi urged her to resume the talks, derailed by the recent clashes in Mindanao, during their meeting on Saturday while they were waiting for the opening of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit at the Opera House here. The two leaders were scheduled to sit down for a formal bilateral meeting yesterday outside the Apec venue.

"He urged me to go back. I said yes, we will go back (to the peace table)," Ms Arroyo said in an interview with reporters in the presidential suite of the Four Seasons Hotel Saturday night after the dinner for Apec leaders and a cultural presentation at the Opera House that was followed by a spectacular fireworks display.

Determined

Malaysia hosts the peace negotiations between the Philippines and the secessionist MILF.

"We already finished with our (meeting)," she said laughing, when reporters asked her what the agenda of her Sunday meeting with Badawi would be.

"We talked about the peace process and we're going to resume it at anytime," she said.

The President said Badawi was very keen on having the peace talks resume.

"Determined is the more descriptive word than optimistic because he wants—and we want—the peace talks to succeed," she said.

The President said they discussed details of the peace process with the MILF.

"We talked about a few details of the issue but not about the end-game, the time (for the final peace agreement), we didn't talk about that," she said.

Asked if she informed Badawi of the current military offensive against elements of the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in Mindanao, she said: "He's very well aware [of that]."

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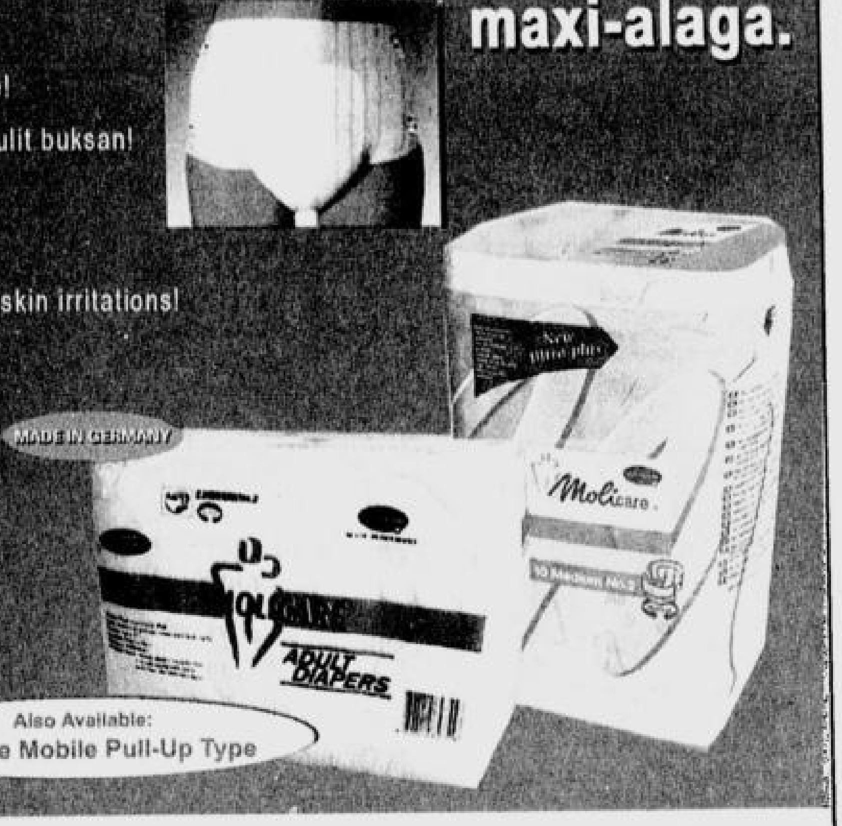

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CA upholds GMA civil case against TV host, ABS-CBN

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS RULED IN FAVOR OF GMA NETWORK Inc. which filed a civil case against its rival television network, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., for hiring actress Rosanna Roces as a show biz talk show host in 2004 despite the fact that she was still under contract with GMA.

"It is a basic postulate that every person must, in the exercise of his rights and in the performance of his duties, act with justice, give everyone his due, and observe honesty and good faith. The same rule applies even in cases of business competition for if it were otherwise, then there would be chaos and anarchy in society," the appellate court said in its Aug. 31 decision.

The court upheld a Quezon City regional trial court ruling which denied a motion from ABS-CBN seeking to dismiss GMA's complaint.

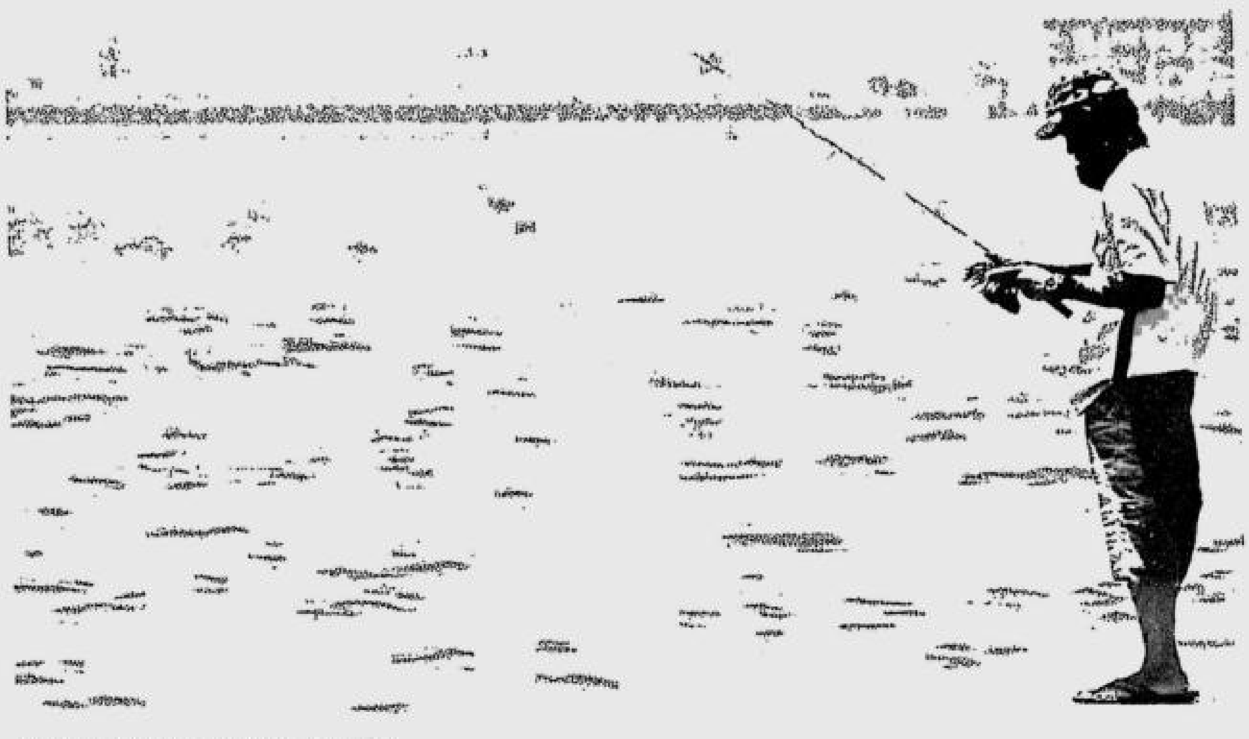
According to the appellate court, it found no merit in ABS-CBN's argument that since it is a business rival of GMA, its interference in the latter's business relations was justifiable.

It also dismissed ABS-CBN's contention that Roces' contract with GMA could be considered terminated after she announced that she was retiring from the entertainment industry, a move that GMA did not object to.

Roces, Jennifer Molina in real life, had a contract with GMA to host the show biz talk show, "Startalk," from March 2003 to March 2005. When she announced her retirement from the entertainment industry in July 2004, she still had eight months left in her contract, which also prohibited her from appearing on shows with the same format as Startalk without GMA's consent.

GMA filed the civil suit against ABS-CBN for hiring Roces as a co-host for its show biz talk show, "The Buzz," a few months after she said she was retiring from show business to spend more time with her family.

Shortly after her announcement, ABS-CBN aired plugs announcing the actress' appearance on "The Buzz." In December 2004, it hired her to co-host the show despite a letter from GMA informing them of Roces' existing contract with the network.



LAZY SUNDAY MORNING
A man casts his fishing rod into the waters off Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard, hoping for a bite or two. RYAN LIM

Another student group seeks justice for UP hazing victim

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT POLITICAL party at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, that suspected hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez was affiliated with, have called for justice for his death.

The Pulse-NCPAG issued a statement last week, nearly two weeks after Mendez died, following criticisms that it has not taken a stand on the incident.

"Amidst our incalculable grief, we chose not to respond to politically and electronically motivated insinuations that we are doing nothing. Instead, we chose to be with Cris' family and loved ones in their decent but determined quest for justice," it said.

Mendez, a senior public administration student, was the representative of his college—the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG)—to the UP Student Council. He ran and won as councilor under Pulse-NCPAG.

In a copy of the statement obtained by the INQUIRER, Pulse-NCPAG expressed sorrow over Mendez's "untimely death which brought grief to everyone whose lives had been touched by the warmth he exuded and the conviction he embodied."

"His death was a profound loss and a gargantuan blow to us all who were his fellow travelers in his journey to becoming a great student leader. Now, Cris is gone. He is never coming back home, he can no longer fulfill his dreams for his family," it added.

Mendez, whom the police believe died of hazing-related injuries, was brought on Aug. 27 to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where he was declared dead on arrival. An autopsy report said that he had been severely beaten up due to the numerous bruises all over his body.

Investigators were checking reports that the victim joined the Sigma Rho fraternity before his death.

Hope, a sigh of relief and a home for Smokey Mountain residents

By Allison W. Lopez

RESIDENTS OF SMOKEY MOUNTAIN IN Tondo, Manila, are heaving a sigh of relief following the recent Supreme Court decision upholding the validity of the deal that transformed the former garbage dump into a housing project for scavengers.

"*Masaya kami kasi napatunayan na legal ang naging proseso sa* Smokey Mountain. *Maluwang ang pakiramdam, parang na-*Solmux (an anticough medicine) *na* (We are happy because it was proven that the legal process was followed in Smokey Mountain. We feel relieved. It's like we took Solmux)," said Nenita Santiago, leader of the Smokey Mountain Alliance of Concerned Beneficiaries.

In 2004, lawyer Frank Chavez questioned the joint-venture agreement between the National Housing Authority and R-II Builders Inc. Chavez said RBI, the project developer, could not acquire the public lands for the 31 high-rise housing units.

With the high court's ruling that the contract was "valid, legal and constitutional," the residents said they could now breathe freely.

Santiago's 36-square meter unit on the second floor of Building 15 may be a tight fit for her family of eight, but it has a small living room, a kitchen, toilet and bath and even a loft for the bedrooms.

Now, all they have to worry about is their livelihood, a problem for majority of the community's 25,000 residents, Santiago said.

She complained that although most women wanted to help augment their husbands' incomes, they could not find jobs because of their lack of skills and job opportunities.

"*Sana matulungan kami sa livelihood, lalo na yung Tesda* (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority) *sa training* (I wish Tesda could help with our livelihood problem, especially with training)," she said.

Tesda, added Santiago, used to conduct livelihood courses in the area like paper flower making or food processing. There were also short seminars on making jewelry and throw pillows, which would have been useful but they didn't have the capital or a market for their products, Santiago added.

As a result, most beneficiaries have a hard time paying the amortization for their houses, she told the INQUIRER.

Despite financial constraints, Santiago said they felt luckier compared to other people who had no place of their own.

"We're proud when people ask us where we live. Paradise Heights is really the name of the project but we call our group Smokey Mountain because we don't want to forget what we went through," she said in Tagalog.

DID YOU KNOW

OF ALL the regions in the Philippines, Metro Manila had the highest unemployment rate (12.5 percent) in April 2007, followed by Central Luzon (10.2 percent). During the same period, the country had an unemployment rate of 7.4 percent. This means that about 2.7 million members of the country's labor force (which had 36.4 million members) had no jobs.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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2 priests to be arraigned on libel charges today

By DJ Yap

TWO CATHOLIC PRIESTS WHO accused a pulp and paper-milling company of polluting the air and water in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur, will be arraigned today on libel charges at a Makati court.

Fathers Florio Falcon and Erwin Rommel Torres will enter their pleas to five and two counts of libel, respectively, before Judge Alberico Umali of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 138.

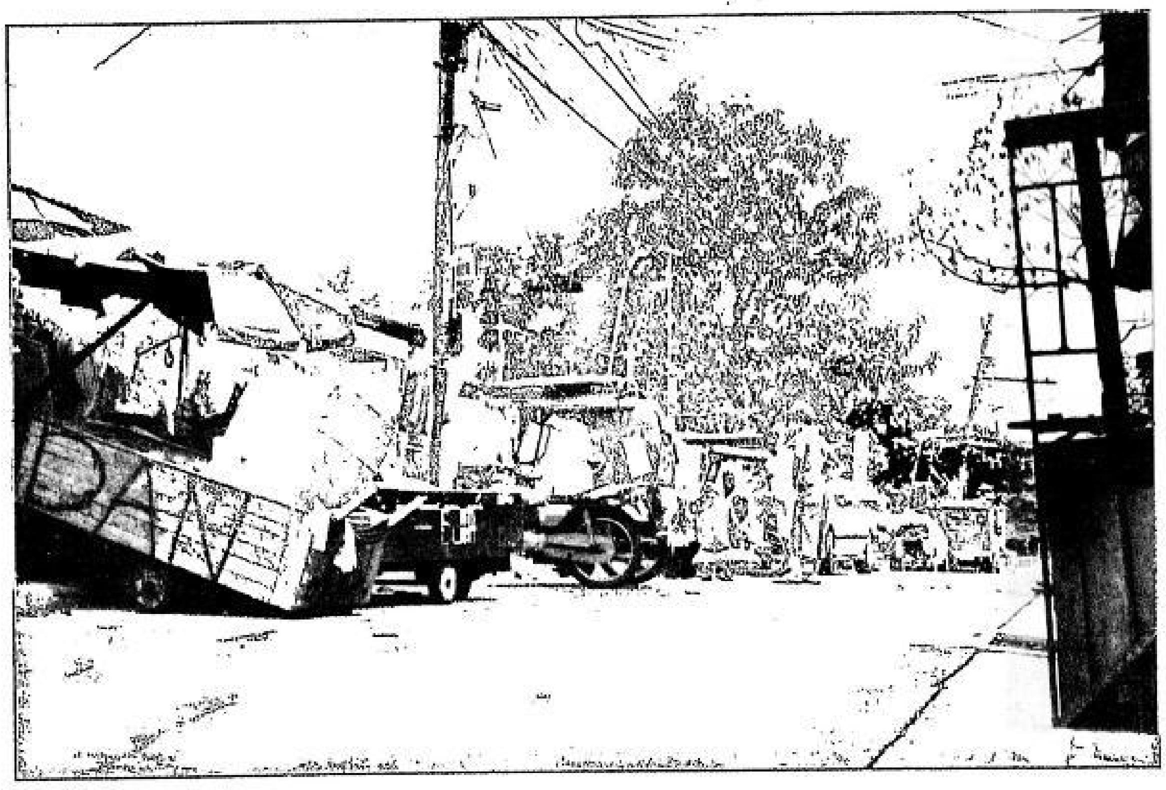
The case stemmed from statements the priests made against Picop Resources Inc., accusing it of committing environment violations in Bislig, which they alleged had led to health ailments among residents.

Falcon, the parish priest of St. Vincent de Paul in Mangangoy, and Torres, his assistant, also led demonstrations in an attempt to force PRI to comply with environment laws, and at one point, wrote President Macapagal-Arroyo about the problem.

The statements published in local papers, as well as their letter to the President, served as basis for the suit, which was filed on Aug. 2 after Department of Justice prosecutors found probable cause that libel was committed.

Warrants for the arrest of Falcon and Torres were issued by Umali on Aug. 7.

On Aug. 14, Falcon posted a bail bond of P50,000 for his temporary liberty. Torres followed suit on Sept. 10 and posted a cash bond of P20,000.



NO ROOM FOR TWO-WAY TRAFFIC
From Rafael Cruz Jr., 40, Mabini St., Galas, Quezon City: "I am calling on the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Quezon City government to please clear Jacinto Street in Barangay Doña Aurora near the Quezon Institute. Here, you can find informal settlers, several vehicles no longer in use, small stores, car accessories stores and a vulcanizing shop encroaching on the street. As a result, Jacinto has become a one-way route for vehicles instead of the two-way street that it is." AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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Unpleasant sight and sounds

THERE are plenty of drunk vagrants at the back of the City College of Manila. You can also hear the sound of a car radio blaring loud broadcasts at around 6 p.m. which disturb not only passersby but tenants and residents on San Vicente and Marquina streets.

JOHN CHUA, 42, Binondo, Manila

Where are traffic aides?

I WANT to report the heavy traffic on Quirino Highway in Baesa, Quezon City which has been under rehabilitation for the two months now. No local government official is doing his or her job to ensure the smooth flow of traffic. Please help. Many thanks.

ALBERT, 34, Quirino Highway, Baesa, Quezon City

Motorists' plea

A STREET crew digging near our subdivision here in Caloocan is causing traffic and other assorted problems. This has been reported before by motorists, but concerned authorities don't seem to care at all.

ANGEL, 46, Camarin, Caloocan City

Attention, Muntinlupa City government officials!

WHERE is the mayor of Muntinlupa or any of his officials? Do they ever visit the Alabang area at all? Traffic there is such a mess! Jeepney drivers block the streets, especially in front of the 7-11 convenience store and the barangay hall. These obstructions, including the sidewalk vendors, are always the cause of traffic nightmares in the area. Please help us do something about this.

NEREO, 40, GMA, Cavite

Korean man jumps from 8th floor of condo unit in Malate

By Allison W. Lopez

A KOREAN TOURIST DIED shortly after midnight yesterday after he fell from the eighth floor of a condominium in what the police said was a case of suicide.

The body of Choi Sue Shin, 34, also known as Luigi Choi of Handong, South Korea, was found sprawled at 12:15 a.m. on the parking lot of the Legaspi Tower in Malate, Manila, where he was staying.

Officer-on-case SPO2 Edgardo Ko of the Manila Police District homicide division said that Choi suffered multiple injuries.

Initial investigation showed that Choi arrived in the country two months ago with his sister, Juliana Lee, as a tourist. He rented a unit on the eighth floor of the condominium while Lee stayed on the 15th floor with two Filipino friends identified as Corazon Ong and Lolit Candang.

Candang told the police that shortly before the incident, Choi called her up and asked her to buy him three bottles of beer. She added that the request was not unusual since the victim often drank alone in his room.

Candang said that on her way back to the condominium after buying the beer at a convenience store, she heard a commotion at the front desk. She then learned that Choi had jumped from the building.

A security guard rushed the Korean to the Ospital ng Maynila but the victim died at 2:45 a.m. while undergoing treatment.

Ko said that several weeks ago, the victim, who was drunk, had tried to jump off the penthouse but was prevented from doing so by some people.

The policeman added that despite evidence showing that the Korean had taken his life, investigators would still conduct a probe to rule out foul play in the case.

METROBRIEFS

Manila honors 'the Sword and the Pen'

MAYOR Alfredo Lim will lead the first-ever "Sword and Pen" celebration honoring two great Manileños—Gen. Macario Sakay ("sword") and National Artist for Literature Amado V. Hernandez ("pen"). The affair will be held on Sept. 13 at 9 a.m. at the Plaza Amado V. Hernandez on Chacon Street in Tondo, Manila. The program will include a wreath-laying ceremony, patriotic music by Banda ng Maynila and the distribution of pamphlets on the lives of the "Sword and Pen" heroes. Sakay was born in Tondo in 1870. He joined the Katipunan and became a general of the Revolutionary Army of the First Philippine Republic. With other Katipuneros, he established the Republika ng Katagalugan and resisted the Americans in Cavite, Batangas and Parañaque. Hernandez was born on Sept. 13, 1903. He was a prolific poet, essayist, novelist, playwright and journalist, and the winner of numerous literary awards. His most famous work, "Isang Dipang Langit," a collection of poems, was written in prison. He was married to zarzuela queen Atang de la Rama. He died in 1970 and was posthumously proclaimed a National Artist.

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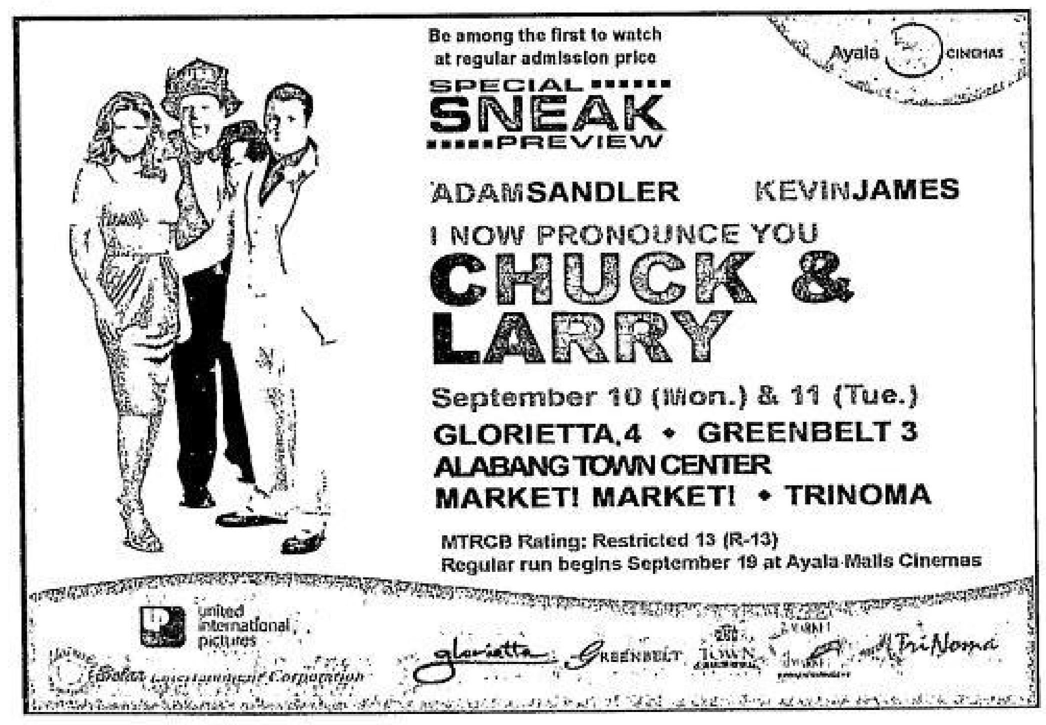
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Experts warn Bin Laden video may signal attacks

THE "NEW" Bin Laden in latest video. AFP

WASHINGTON—INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS scouring the latest video of Osama bin Laden for clues warned on Saturday that his message offers hints that al-Qaida is planning another attack on US interests.

In his first video appearance in three years, the elusive al-Qaida chief mocks the United States as "weak" and vows to escalate fighting in Iraq, all the while using language similar to the kind used ahead of other past attacks.

At times, Bin Laden speaks directly to Americans, using plain language that "appears to be crafted in a way as to be understood by the average person on the street in Europe or in the US," said intelligence analyst Ben Venzke.

The latest video "contains phrases ... which serve as indicators that OBL's message is part of al-Qaida's efforts to fulfill its requirements to provide warning and a chance for the enemy to change its ways before executing an attack," Venzke said.

However, the message, delivered days ahead of the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States in which 3,000 people were killed, gives no clues "to indicate when an attack ... would be attempted," he said.

The language, saying peace will befall "he who follows the guidance," mirrors that used in Bin Laden's "European truce offer" of April 2004 in which he said: "Peace upon those who followed the right path."

The similarity in terms is important because the 2004 message appealing to Europeans to change their ways was the final message aimed specifically at Europeans before the July 2005 bombings in London which killed 52 people, said Venzke of the Virginia-based Intel Center.

In the video, Bin Laden also discusses current events but issues no direct threats, and offers two ways of ending the Iraq war, according to a transcript released by the US-based SITE Intelligence Group which monitors Islamic militant websites.

"The first is from our side, and it is to continue to escalate the killing and fighting against you," he says.

The second is to do away with the US democratic system of government, which he says merely serves the interests of major corporations.

Bin Laden appears in the video with a trimmed beard that is apparently dyed black, hiding the streaks of gray seen in previous footage, and wears a beige cloak over a white robe.

According to Azzam Tamimi, head of the London-based Institute of Islamic Political Thought, the beard dye is a "sign of war." The rigorous Salafi Islamic school to which Bin Laden belongs "condones this dye only in preparation for war," he said. *AFP*

Suicide bomb kills 30 in Algeria

DELLYS, ALGERIA—ALGERIA WAS ROCKED by its second suicide bomb attack in three days on Saturday when a blast ripped through a naval barracks, with an al-Qaida offshoot later claiming responsibility for the blast that killed at least 30 people.

The north African branch of al-Qaida claimed responsibility for that attack and Thursday's apparent assassination attempt on President Abdelaziz Bouteflika in the eastern city of Batna, Al-Jazeera television reported Sunday citing a statement posted on the Internet from the group.

Most who died in Saturday's blast in the port town of Dellys, 70 km east of Algiers, were members of the coast guard, but the interior ministry said three civilians also died and many of the 47 wounded were also civilians.

On Thursday, 22 people were killed and more than 100 wounded when a man exploded a device in a crowd waiting to meet Bouteflika in Batna. *AFP*

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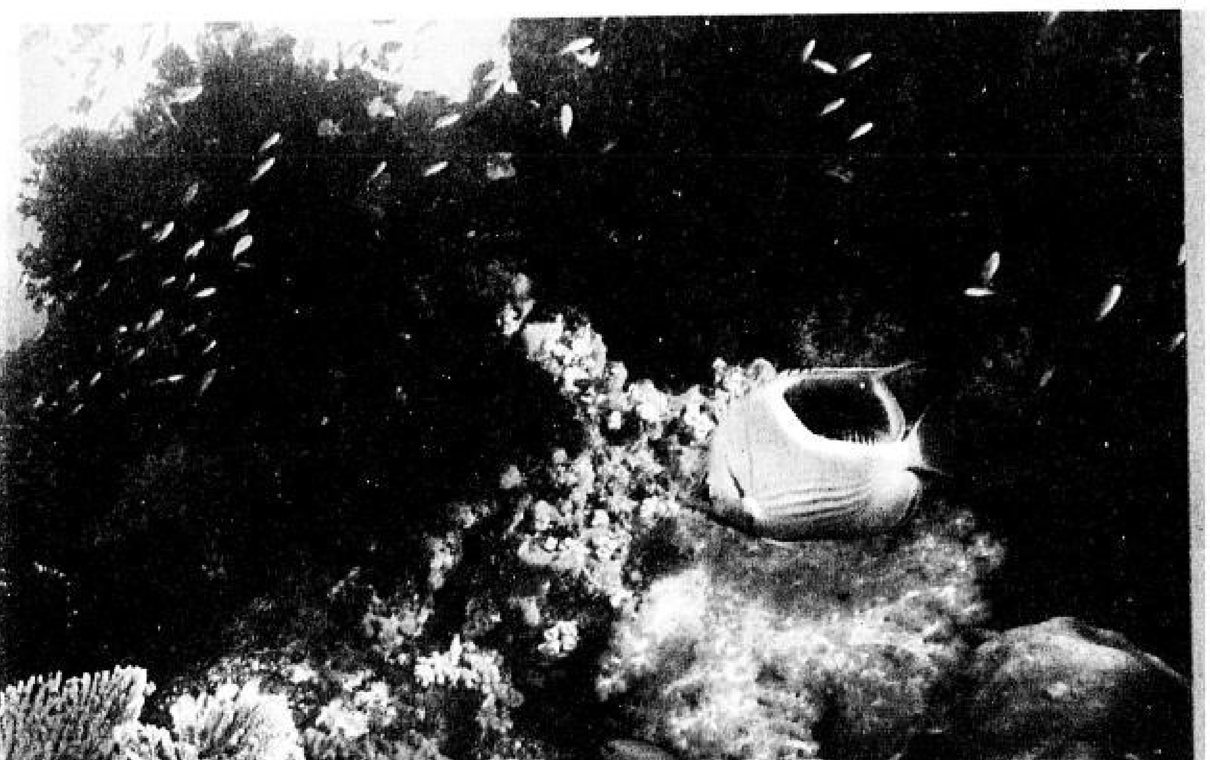

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Pope blasts 'selfish' Europeans for not having enough children

MARIAZELL, .AUSTRIA—POPE Benedict XVI blasted Europeans for being selfish and not having enough children, in a sermon on Saturday at the 850-year-old pilgrimage site of Mariazell in Austria.

"Europe has become child-poor. We want everything for ourselves and place little trust in the future," the Pope told a crowd of faithful from his canopied area at an open-air, afternoon Mass that took place under heavy rain.

But Benedict held out hope, saying: "The earth will be deprived of a future only when the forces of the human heart and of reason illuminated by the heart are extinguished ... Where God is, there is the future."

The Pontiff had slammed abortion upon arriving in Austria Friday as the "very opposite" of human rights.

"The fundamental human right, the presupposition of every other right, is the right to life itself," he told members of the government and the diplomatic corps at the Hofburg, the seat of the Austrian presidency in Vienna.

Austrian Defense Minister Norbert Darabos said in a state television interview however Saturday that the Austrian government would not call for a change in the country's law which allows abortions.

POPE Benedict XVI celebrates Mass on Sunday in Vienna. The Pope is on a three-day visit to Austria. AP

Meanwhile, in evening prayers at Mariazell the traditionalist Pope defended chastity for religious orders as a way for them to become "men and women of hope."

Celibacy is not "individualism or a life of isolation" for priests, nuns and other religious orders but "unreservedly" serving God .and having "deep relationships ... which they accept as a gift."

The Austrian Church has been wracked by several sex scandals involving priests and in an open letter to the Pope the liberal Austrian movement Wir sind Kirche ("We are the Church") has called for the end of celibacy. *AFP*

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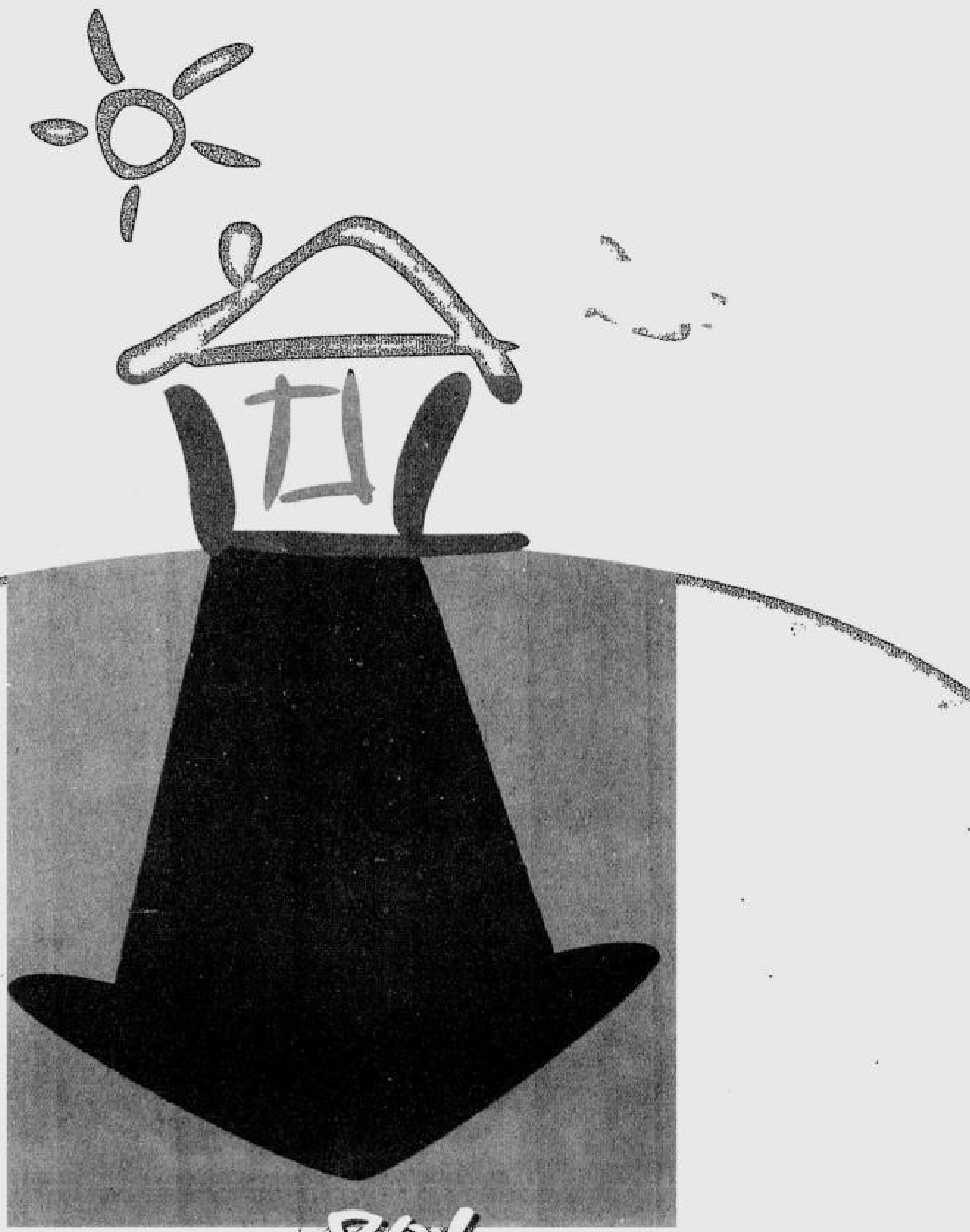
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WORLDBRIEFS

Portuguese police allow Maddie's parents to return home

FARO, Portugal—The parents of missing British girl Madeleine McCann arrived at Faro airport Sunday to fly back to Britain after being named as suspects by Portuguese police and sharply criticizing the inquiry in media interviews. It had been thought that Gerry and Kate McCann had put plans to return to Britain on hold after being named as arguidos, or formal suspects in their daughter's disappearance by police on Friday. But an unnamed family source said that they had changed their minds after they were given the green light to go home by Portuguese authorities. The couple's daughter Madeleine, who would now be aged 4, disappeared from their holiday apartment in the resort on May 3 as her parents ate an evening meal with friends at a tapas bar just meters away. The McCanns, both doctors and aged 39, have based themselves in the resort ever since, launching a high-profile, worldwide appeal for her return which attracted support from figures including Pope Benedict XVI and footballer David Beckham. In recent days, though, both faced hours of questioning by police last week and Kate McCann told Britain's Sunday Mirror newspaper that officers had tried to persuade her to confess to accidentally killing her daughter.

AFP

Afghan suicide bombings rise, UN report shows

KHOST, Afghanistan—Taliban insurgents carried out 103 suicide bombings in Afghanistan in the first eight months of 2007, a 69 percent increase over the same period last year, according to a UN report that is expected to be issued publicly on Monday (Tuesday in Manila). The record number of attacks killed more than 200 people, 80 percent of them civilians. The report also found no evidence that suicide bombing technology was migrating from Iraq to Afghanistan, a major fear of Afghan and American officials. Still, the statistics showed that Afghanistan endured the world's second-highest number of suicide attacks in 2006 and so far in 2007, according to Mohammed M. Hafez, a visiting political science professor at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, who tracks suicide bombings. Afghanistan trails only Iraq, where 290 suicide bombings were carried out from January through late July, he said.

NYT

FBI data mining reached beyond target suspects

WASHINGTON—The FBI cast a much wider net in its terrorism investigations than it has previously acknowledged by relying on telecommunications companies to analyze phone-call and e-mail patterns of the associates of Americans who had come under suspicion, according to newly obtained bureau records. The documents indicate that the FBI used secret demands for records to obtain data not only on the person it was targeting but also details on his or her "community of interest"—the network of people that the target in turn was in contact with. The FBI recently stopped the practice in part because of broader questions raised about its aggressive use of the records demands, which are known as national security letters, officials said on Friday after being asked about it.

NYT

SPORTS
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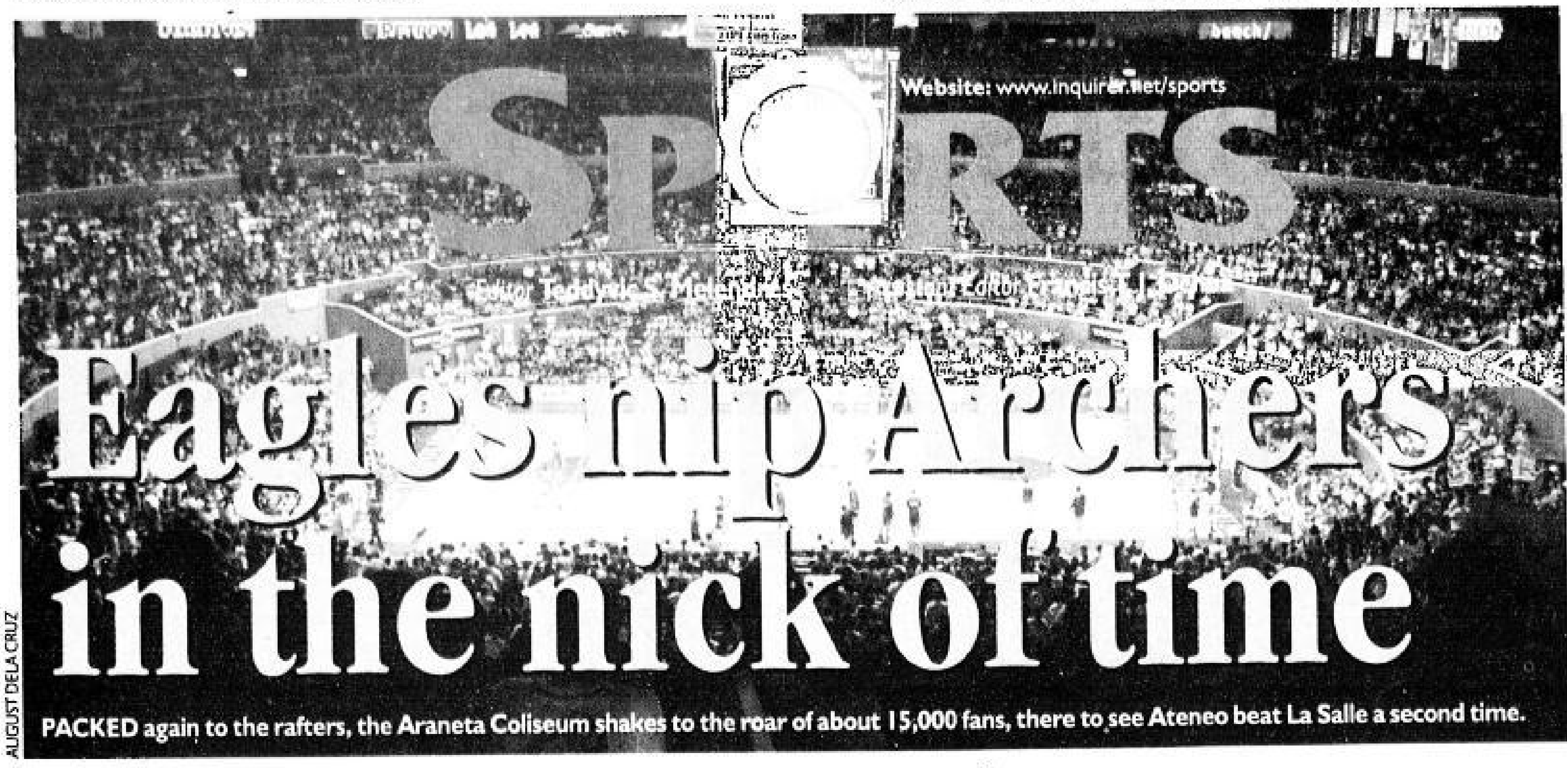

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Eagles nip Archers in the nick of time

PACKED again to the rafters, the Araneta Coliseum shakes to the roar of about 15,000 fans, there to see Ateneo beat La Salle a second time.

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE HEATED MATCH CALLED FOR ANOTHER review of the tape.

But unlike in the first round, the Ateneo Blue Eagles gained vindication just minutes after stunning their fierce rivals La Salle Green Archers.

Chris Tiu buried a triple with 17.8 seconds left and the Eagles

EAGLES/ A30

Henin bags US Open A31

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- Manual Operation
- 45° degree opening
- Conventional rear lock system
- Smooth, body-match paint finish

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- Hinges with spring for easy opening
- 45° degree opening
- Rotary lock system (Car-like operation)
- Smooth, body-match paint finish

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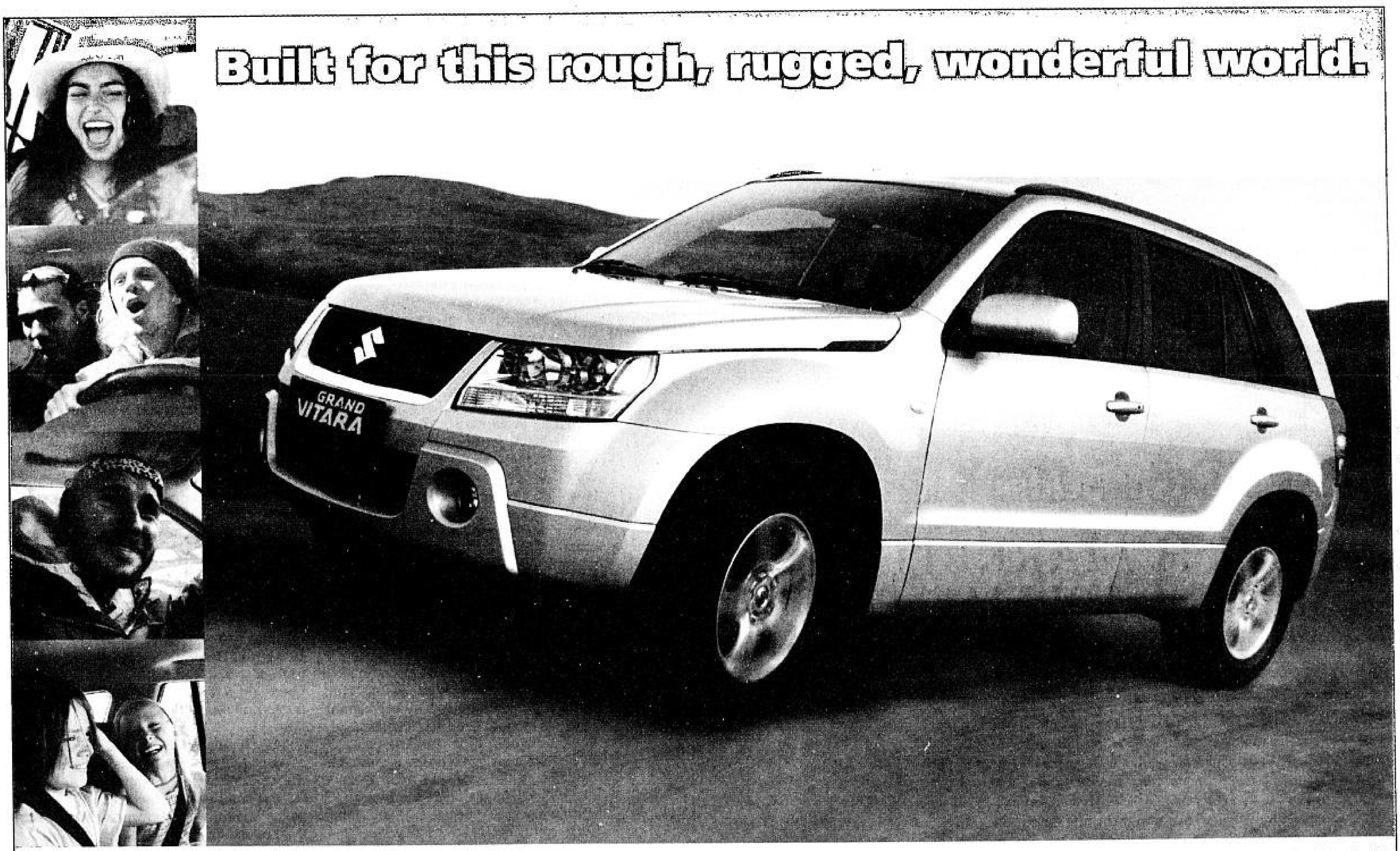

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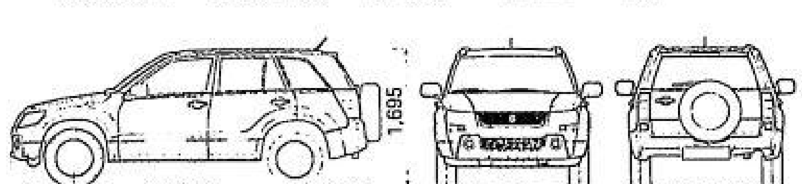

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Eagles nip Archers anew

From page A29

turned back the Archers with a slim 89-87 triumph to claim a share of second place in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum.

It took several minutes before the Eagles savored their elimination-round sweep of the Archers.

Rico Maierhofer seemingly beat the buzzer with a putback off JV Casio's missed jumper to forge an extra period. But a tape review of the contentious shot showed that Maierhofer failed to release the ball as time expired.

"At least with this win, people recognize now that, no, we're not much better than them, but on these two particular nights we're much better than them," said coach Norman Black, who emotionally punched the air for emphasis after the technical committee officially awarded the win to Ateneo.

The rivalry between the two schools turned even more bitter this season after the Archers placed under protest their first-round loss, 80-77 in overtime, to the Eagles.

It took a week before league officials junked the Archers' complaint and ruled that the Eagles did not violate a league rule on foreign players.

"I thought we won the first game and a lot of people questioned that because of the protest," said Black, whose Eagles tied the Archers in second place at 9-4.

This time, the Eagles played catch-up in the second half as Tiu hit 13 of his 19 points in the closing quarters.

Yuri Escueta also delivered the big shots off the bench, including back-to-back triples that sparked the Eagles' comeback from a 13-point deficit, 38-51, early in the third period.

"Hard-fought game by both teams. Coming into the game, I thought we could beat them again. A lot of people thought we might get blown out in this game. The guys showed a lot of character and they really played hard. All the credit goes to the players."

Earlier, the Santo Tomas Tigers clobbered the Adamson Falcons, 74-62, to secure at least a playoff for the Final Four with an 8-5 record.

STANDINGS	W	L
UE	13	0
Ateneo	9	4
La Salle	9	4
Santo Tomas	8	5
Far Eastern	7	6
National U	5	8
Adamson	1	12
UP	0	13

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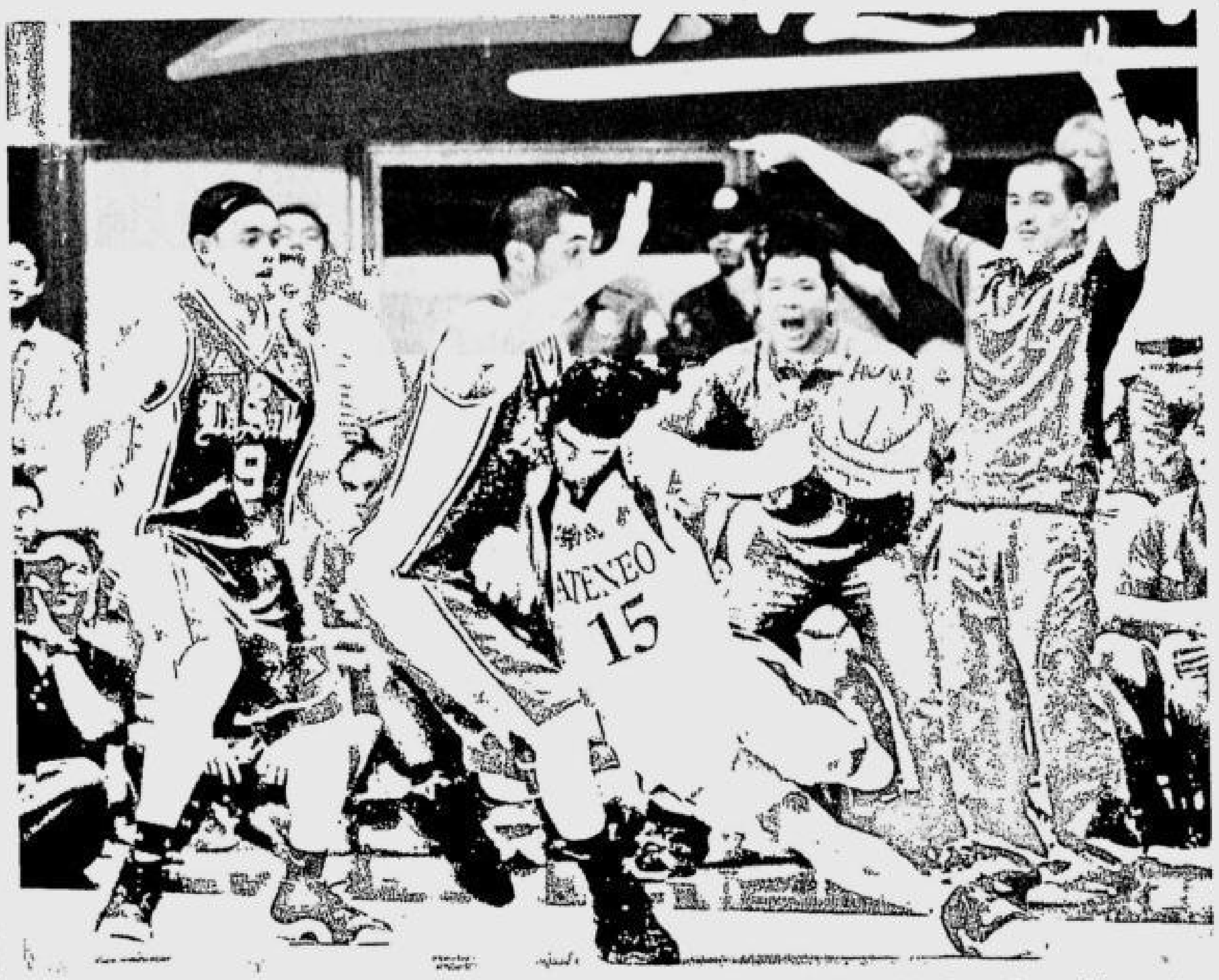

AS La Salle coach Franz Pumaren (right) signals a defensive ploy, Ateneo's Eman Monfort tries to drive past the Archers' Bader Malabes and Pocholo Villanueva (left) in yesterday's game. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Jervy Cruz kept the defending champions in the hunt with 24 points, 18 rebounds and two blocks.

Before Tiu's game-winning shot, the sweet-shooting guard had also nailed three triples—the third pushing Ateneo within 63-59 late in the third quarter.

An Eric Salamat triple and back-to-back buckets by Jobe Nkemakolam gave the Eagles their first lead, 66-65, since the opening canto.

But the Archers pulled away again with a 7-0 run for a 73-66 edge before Ford Arao and Salamat rallied to knot the contest at 75.

JV Casio responded for the Archers in the final two minutes, firing five straight points to give the Archers their last taste of the lead, 87-86, with 56.6 ticks left.

And the Archers seemed headed for the win as rookie Nonoy Baclao turned the ball over in the Eagles' next possession, before Tiu came to Ateneo's rescue.

The scores:

First Game

UST 74—Cruz 24, Ababou 11, Mirza 9, Allera 8, Cuan 6, Dizon 4, Taylor 4, Canlas 4, Scott 3, Gile 1, Basa 0, Soriao 0, Badua 0, Espiritu 0, Cortez 0.

ADAMSON 62—Cañada 12, Cabahug 12, Colina 11, Hugnatan 11, Canuday 7, Gonzalgo 5, Yambot 4, Olalia 0, Dela Paz 0, Aguilo 0, Margallo 0, Alvarez 0, Santos 0, Gorospe 0.

Quarters: 16-16, 32-24, 50-39, 74-62

Second Game

ATENEO 89—Tiu 19, Arao 18, Escueta 16, Salamat 15, Nkemakolam 10, Reyes 4, Long 3, Baclao 2, Al-Hussaini 2, Monfort 0, Laterre 0.

LA SALLE 87—Maierhofer 24, Villanueva 18, Tang 15, Malabes 11, Ilad 9, Casio 5, Walsham 3, Ferdinand 2, Atkins 0, Lee 0, Mangahas 0, Cua 0.

Quarters: 15-18, 38-44, 64-64, 89-87

2 more cagers with Filipino roots seeking SEAG berths

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE PHILIPPINE TEAM CONTINUES TO get a boost from the international pipeline.

Two more overseas-born players with Filipino roots are hoping to land slots in the all-amateur squad that will see action in the Thailand Southeast Asian Games in December.

Fil-American Kevin Dalafu and Fil-Iranian Amir Mazarei will try out for the team when it resumes training at 11 a.m. today at the Rizal Coliseum.

Dalafu, a 6-foot-2 guard, played for the Vanguard University of Southern California.

The 5-foot-11 Mazarei, who arrived Saturday night, suited up for the University of Redlands in Thousand Oaks, California.

Mazarei set a single-game record of 57 points and averaged four triples a game for his school. The 22-year-old cager also averaged 24.8 points to earn a spot in the first team of the Southern California Inter-Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Fil-Am Gabe Norwood, a 6-foot-5 guard, earlier expressed interest to don the national colors again after playing for the San Miguel-RP squad in the Fiba Asia championship in Tokushima, Japan, last July.

"With the departure of most top PBL players to the pro ranks, we really need to beef up our team," said Mikee Romero, Harbour Centre owner and SEAG project manager. "If they're really good, then we will take them."

Only Jason Castro, PBL back-to-back Most Valuable Player, and 6-foot-6 center Beau Belga are assured of slots in the national team mentored by Junel Baculi.

Former Purefoods point guard Boyet Bautista and Erick Rodriguez of Toyota Balintawak are also expected to join the tryouts.

Meanwhile, the PBL has set a Sept. 24 deadline for the submission of rookie draft applications. The draft is slated Sept. 28.

Change of Fortune for 'new' Viloria

EXPECT FORMER WBC LIGHT FLY-weight champ Brian Viloria to be a better fighter with former Manny Pacquiao conditioning coach Justin Fortune now handling his training at the Pound-for-Pound gym in Los Angeles.

Viloria confirmed Fortune's new role yesterday as he pursues his bid to get back to the ring this November.

"Brian looked a little big, he must be walking around 125 lbs," said a source who saw Viloria at the gym Saturday.

"He said he plans to campaign in the 112 lbs division, depending on who he will be fighting."

Meanwhile, Fortune said he still likes Pacquiao's chances against Marco Antonio Barrera when they meet again on Oct. 6 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"I know Manny pretty well, and he will go for the kill," Fortune was quoted as saying by the source.

Fortune, however, was not impressed at all by Pacquiao's decision to train in the Philippines, saying that "there's too much distraction there."

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

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Roach, Rivera confirm Pacquiao 'hidden' weapon

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—IT WOULD BE TERRIBLY unwise of Marco Antonio Barrera to kill himself preparing for a two-fisted roller coaster in his next fight.

Manny Pacquiao, a marked southpaw, may indeed throw more right hands come Saturday, Oct. 6 in Las Vegas. But if Barrera bothers to put his over-abused nose closer to the video screen, he would discover that the dreaded right hand was already there when Pacquiao ran him over in November 2003.

If in doubt, Barrera could go send one assistant to the Wild Card gym here where there's a yellowish full newspaper page pasted on the right wall, immediately after the door, detailing the gory presence of the right hand nose-crusher in their first encounter in Texas.

It's, of course, unclear whether the Pacquiao right shot came in the form of a hook or a jab, but the impact of the blow pitifully distorted Barrera's handsome profile beyond recognition.

* * *

That said, we take this opportunity to inform Señor Barrera he should start preparing for a Pacquiao hidden weapon.

No, correction. This one that ultimately opened the door to Barrera's lamentable defeat four years ago is not exactly secret.

But if it should now loom like a mystery, a fleeting midnight blade landing like a lightning bolt, it's because of the dumb fact Barrera et al had overlooked it.

Instead of Pacquiao's over-hyped new shot—the right hook, which had at one time been associated with the disloyal Manila Ice—Barrera should come ready to duck the Big Jab.

Whether Barrera likes it or not, he will be standing up before a two-handed upheaval in Pacquiao.

It's, of course, hard to tell whether that storm could complete the devastation or dissipate ahead, given Pacquiao's uneven training regimen that saw him bolting perfect Wild Card to keep love fires burning at home.

* * *

Anyway, credit for exposing the hidden Pacquiao weapon goes to John Chavez who, writing for Boxing News, went off the beaten track to give The Jab its rightful place in the Sweet Science:

"While there's been so much emphasis on Pacquiao's power punches in recent times, it's the simplest and subtle things in his arsenal that truly make him special ... It's funny how even at the highest levels in boxing, the simplest punch is still and will always be the most important."

Touché.

Now, let's call in the inimitable Hermie Rivera, who bothered to lend us his observation from his love nest in San Jose, in the process confirming how trainer Freddie Roach had also given credit to Pacquiao's phantom jab:

* * *

"If Manny starts out with his usual dose of non-stop punching, then a shortened evening is in store for Marco who's in a grind himself sweating his butt off at a Guadalajara gym.

"Midway into their arduous workouts, I still can't see how Barrera can avenge his knockout by Pacquiao. Unless he has grown a third arm and a leg to boot.

"Buoyed by the expert handling of Freddie Roach and Buboy Fernandez, the southpaw terror is on track to reassert his dominance of the Mexican three-time champ.

"At best, Barrera will find it discomfiting—at worst difficult—once Pacquiao opens up with his long list of stinging hooks and straights set up by his wicked jabs.

"'Any fighter leading with the jab can execute the knockout drills polished in the workouts,'" says Freddie.

"You can bet the house Marco would be looking for ways to surprise Manny in their re-acquaintance shindig.

"Manny's powerful strikes hurt Marco in their first encounter, forcing his handlers to stop it in the 11th round.

"He was staggered repeatedly by solid shots unleashed without let-up by the Filipino crackerjack.

"This time, expect Marco to seek desperate means to eke out an upset over his hard-hitting rival.

"To execute such plan, Barrera must engage Pacquiao early and whack away at every turn to exact maximum damage—else he'll be in pasture posthaste.

"Ironically, a defeat could revive Marco's stalled drive to earn a law degree, an avid wish sidetracked by his 11th round collapse at San Antonio's Alamodome.

"If Barrera gets blown out again, maybe he can seek solace in the successional defense of his future clients. Against Manny—he's defenseless.

"While Barrera was consistent in winning most of his fights, there's something vital that he must do but didn't in their first war.

"He must avoid standing in front of Manny and getting an abundance of heavy jolts sans the obligatory counterpoise. I'm sure Barrera's handlers know about this fistic gaffe by now.

"Now we are looking at a healthy Pacquiao and this means the Pinoy mangler is all set to repeat his enthralling stoppage of the vengeance-seeking Barrera."

Henin bags US Open title

NEW YORK—TOP-SEEDED Justine Henin capped a dominant run and overwhelmed No. 4 Svetlana Kuznetsova, 6-1, 6-3, Saturday night to win her second US Open title and seventh major championship overall.

Henin, who also won the 2003 Open, did not drop a set all tournament and became the first woman to win a Grand Slam after beating both Williams sisters along the way.

"I had two amazing weeks," Henin said, "and played my best tennis."

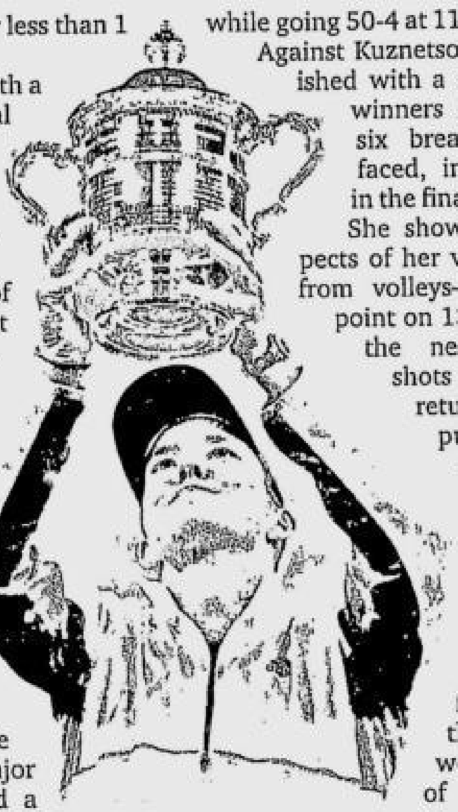
The only help Henin needed was when she got a boost from a couple of fans while she climbed into the stands to greet her coach after the match ended.

Kuznetsova matched the fewest number of games for a US Open women's runner-up in the past 31 years, making Henin work for less than 1 1/2 hours.

"I hope to be back with a better game in the final next time," the Russian said, praising her opponent for "an unbelievable tournament."

It was reminiscent of some of Henin's past routs in major finals, including dropping three games to Ana Ivanovic while winning a third consecutive French Open title in June, and ceding two games to Mary Pierce at Roland Garros in 2005.

The victory gave Henin her second major title of the year and a tour-leading seven titles while going 50-4 at 11 tournaments.


HENIN AP

Against Kuznetsova, Henin finished with a 25-11 edge in winners and saved all six break points she faced, including three in the final game.

She showed off all aspects of her versatile game, from volleys—winning the point on 13 of 16 trips to the net—to passing shots on the run to returns of serve, punctuating most with shouts of "Allez!"

Henin missed her trademark backhand on the match's first two points, then went to work, taking nine of the next 10 points while going up 4-0. Even when she faltered, double-faulting twice in a row at 3-0, she recovered to hold, throwing herself into a 177 kph (110 mph) service winner and a 158 kph (98 mph) second-serve ace.

Henin ended any debate over who would be the player of the year by adding a second US Open title to the fourth French Open championship she snared in June, crowning a year that began with both a divorce and a reconciliation with her family.

"I'm just feeling happy. And the fact that I have my family back in my life helps a lot," the world number one added. "They give me a lot of support. I'm feeling in peace with myself and that's a very important feeling for me."

"Not a lot of people thought I could win this Open with the draw I had and I did. It's amazing for me," Henin said. "I hope I can keep a lot of confidence from this tournament. Beating Venus and Serena and winning today this way, this gives me a lot of confidence." *AP, AFP*

Parker tows France past Germany

MADRID, SPAIN—LITHUANIA AND SLOVENIA reached the European championship quarterfinals after winning second-stage group games Saturday.

Unbeaten Lithuania forged a hard-fought 79-74 win over Olympic runner-up Italy while Slovenia kept a perfect record with a 66-51 victory over Turkey.

PARKER REUTERS

Also, Tony Parker scored 23 points and France defeated Germany, 78-66, moving closer to a place in the last eight.

Florent Pietrus and Tariq Kirksay both added 12 points for France, while Dirk Nowitzki led Germany with 28 points. *AP*

A-Rod scores milestone

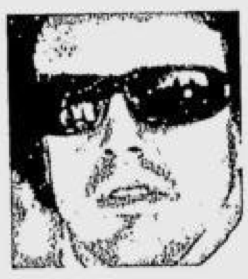
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI—ALEX RODRIGUEZ hit his 50th and 51st home runs of the season here Saturday as the New York Yankees demolished the Kansas City Royals, 11-5.

Rodriguez, an 11-time All-Star, posted his eighth multi-homer game of the season and has now homered in four straight games. He becomes the first Yankees player to eclipse the half-century mark since Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle both accomplished the feat in 1961.

He has 49 home runs as the third baseman, which breaks the major league record. Mike Schmidt hit 48 for the Philadelphia Phillies in 1980 and Adrian Beltre matched it in 2004 with the Los Angeles Dodgers. *AFP*

Alonzo takes Monza pole

MONZA, ITALY—FERNANDO ALONSO STAYED focused on his task Saturday, clinching pole position in qualifying for this weekend's Italian Grand Prix.


ALONSO REUTERS

Alonso's teammate Lewis Hamilton was second, giving McLaren the top two starting spots for the fifth time in 13 races. *AP*

Men's final: Federer vs Djokovic

NEW YORK—ROGER FEDERER moved within one victory of his fourth straight US Open title, beating No. 4 Nikolay Davydenko, 7-5, 6-1, 7-5, Saturday to stretch his winning streak at Flushing Meadows to 26 matches.

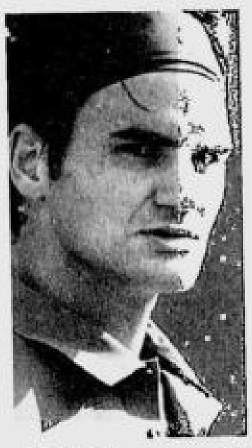
Federer, who will be seeking to become the first man to win four consecutive US championships since Bill Tilden in 1925, will face No. 3 Novak Djokovic, who earlier Saturday overcame the late summer heat and humidity of New York City to beat 15th-seeded David Ferrer, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.

"I'm always very well-prepared for the majors. I know what it takes," Federer said. "When the second week comes around, I play my best."

In Sunday's championship match, Federer will face the only man to beat him over the past three months.

"I guess the best players of the summer are in the final," said Federer, all too aware that he lost to Djokovic at a hard-court event in Montreal in early August.

That was Djokovic's big breakthrough: He also beat Rafael Nadal and Andy Roddick there, becoming the first man in 13 years to beat Nos. 1-3 in the rankings at a single tournament. *AP*


FEDERER AFP

DJOKOVIC AFP

Stricker, Baddeley share lead; Tiger still 1 down

LEMONT, ILLINOIS—STEVE STRICKER EAgled the eighth hole to keep pace with Tiger Woods, then surged ahead with birdie chances on every hole in a round of 7-under 64 Saturday that left him tied with Aaron Baddeley in the BMW Championship.

Baddeley birdied his final two holes for a 65 that allowed him to join Stricker at 15-under 198 and play in the final group.

Stricker, who won the first of the US PGA Tour's "playoffs" at The Barclays for his first victory in 6 1/2 years, is in position to take a commanding lead in the chase for the FedEx Cup, with Woods or the absent Phil Mickelson having to win the Tour Championship to catch him.

Baddeley, who won in Phoenix earlier this year, was a forgotten figure on the back nine even though he was always in range. Then came a 30-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole, followed by an approach into 5 feet at the last to get into the final group.

Woods never looked more subdued after a 65 that kept him one stroke off the lead, but he missed only one fairway and two greens, and figured his putter kept him from one of his best scores of the year. *AP*

Porto stars as STI crushes UM, nears Naascu crown

GAMES WEDNESDAY (*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
2 p.m.—UM vs STI (Game 2)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

STI FASHIONED OUT AN 86-72 DEMOLITION of University of Manila Saturday night to move to within a victory of clinching the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) men's basketball championship at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Haddi Porto, a starting guard last season whose playing time dwindled with the arrival of new recruits, picked a fitting moment to shine when he unloaded 21 points to key the Scorpions' victory at the start of the best-of-three title series.

The win put STI on the threshold of its first ever title after finishing second to fallen defending champion AMA last year.

"We are closer to the goal but we can't just count UM out," said STI coach Vic Ycasiano. "We need to remain focused all the more."

Porto scored most of his points in the second quarter where the Scorpions buckled down to work after the Hawks had dictated the pace to take a 20-15 lead at the end of the first period.

While UM concentrated on gunners Dexter Micutuan, Raymond Tiongco, Mark Balneg and Howard Flor, Porto caught fire with his jumpers and fastbreak plays.

Tiongco, one of the three big acquisitions from other leagues, still managed to score 16 points, while Micutuan finished with nine markers. Balneg and Flor played decoy most of the time and ended up scoring seven and six points, respectively.

The Hawks, back in the finals after a year's absence, tried to fight back through Frank Bonus, Onofre Napiza and Russen Assuncion but there was no stopping the Scorpions, who sealed the win with a 24-point scoring rampage in the fourth quarter.

Joy Tolentino poured in 26 points on top of 16 rebounds as Centro Escolar outclassed AMA, 76-62, to clinch the women's title in the second game. Tolentino bagged the MVP award.

St. Clare banked on Roy Urbano, Aries Parinas and Nico Rallos to turn back five-time defending champion University of Manila, 88-76, and capture the junior championship.

SPORTSWATCH

Davis Cup team at PSA Forum

MEMBERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE RP DAVIS Cup team, the coming fourth leg of the Hitachi National Criterium Grand Prix and Games and Amusements Board (GAB) chair Eric Buhain are all gracing this week's session of the PSA Forum Tuesday at the Shakey's UN Avenue branch. The Davis Cup team will discuss its chances against Kuwait in their coming Davis Cup tie on Sept. 21-23 in Kuwait. Aired live overdzSR Sports Radio 918 and sponsored by Shakey's and Pagcor, the weekly forum starts at 10:30 a.m.

SJC stakes P2-M prize

NO LESS THAN P2 MILLION IN GUARANTEED prize awaits the winners of the SJC 2nd Anniversary 6-stag derby today at San Juan Coliseum. The three-day stagfest will be hosted by SJC owner Rodolfo Pineda and backed up by Saguipaan Complexor 3000. Entry fee is P15,000. An impressive list of *sabong* champions will see action today, among them Gerry Ramos, Sam Mendoza, William Go, Allan Siaco, Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina, Boy Marzo, Kabu Taniguchi, Osang dela Cruz, Boy de Roca, *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, Pol Estrellado, Benjie Lim, Danny Ty, Luding Candelaria, Sonny Lagon, Mayor Buddy Dunca and Rio Salceda, among others. For more inquiries, please call 725-5369 and 725-6563.

Stagfest championship round on

A MAD SCRAMBLE FOR THE TITLE LOOMS today when the championship round of Stag Festival 5-stag derby gets under way at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Twenty-two participants with two wins each so far lead the qualifiers, among them Terry Santos, Pol Derpo, Dong Lacson, Art de Castro, Daniel Jimenez, Glen Tan, Jo Bautista, Cesar Pedraja, Ruben Rabutin, Moling Dorado, Noli Bautista, Bebot Reyesand Ricky Peleya. Total guaranteed prize is P1.5 million. Meanwhile, Roligon's No Entry Fee Fastest Win One-Cock "Ulutan" returns on Sept. 18 with P100,000 at stake. A total of 165 entries were registered last Aug. 28. For inquiries, call 8512275 and 8529812.

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Angeles U tossers whip Cavite SL foes

ANGELES UNIVERSITY FINISHED OFF CAVITE SCHOOL OF LIFE IN straight sets, 25-8, 25-22, yesterday to stay unbeaten in Group C of the Petron Treats Boys' Volleyball League at the Colegio de San Lorenzo Complex in Quezon City. Other results: Canossa Academy d. Ateneo, 25-15, 25-16; UE d. Lourdes School-Manda, 25-13, 15-14; St. Mary's QC d. St. Joseph, 25-21, 17-25, 25-21. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

NAGA MILO MARATHON

Peñalosa, Morillo show 'em

NAGA CITY, CAMARINES SUR—A FARMer's son and an aspiring teacher ruled the Naga qualifier of the 31st National Milo Marathon yesterday.

Franklin Peñalosa and Adamson University education graduate Ailyn Morillo won P10,000 each and advanced to the 42K grand finals set Nov. 18 in Manila.

The 30-year-old Peñalosa encountered little opposition to finish the 21-kilometer race in 1 hour, 15 minutes and 44 seconds.

PEÑALOSA

Morillo beat 18-year-old Mary Grace Caritas of Daet, Camarines Norte, who clocked 2:05.57. Lourdes Anchuvas of Pili, Camarines Sur, was third in 2:26.32.

"*Pinaghandaan ko talaga ito* (I prepared hard for this)," said Peñalosa, who hails from this city where his father tends a farm.

Peñalosa placed fourth in last year's race won by Antonio Nulial, 23, of Oas, Albay.

Nulial checked in second this time in 1:17.53, followed by Juny Rex Carreon in 1:18.18. They won P7,000 and P5,000, respectively.

"*Pinilit kong habulin pero mabilis* (I tried to run after him but he was fast)," said Nulial, a senior criminology student at the University of Northeastern Philippines in Iriga City.

The second and third placers likewise made it to the grand finals.

A total of 4,500 runners from six provinces in the Bicol region answered the 6 a.m. starting gun fired by Naga City Sports Council president Pedro Lee and assisted by Pat Goc Ong, Milo events executive director, and regional sales manager Arlyn de Jesus.

Hostilities shift to Albay province for the Legazpi leg on Sunday before the series goes to San Pablo City on Sept. 23.

Girlstown tops Little Olympics

SISTERS OF MARY-GIRLSTOWN, BOOSTed by victories in football and sepak takraw, reclaimed the high school overall championship at the close of the 2007 Milo Little Olympics yesterday at the Marikina Sports Park.

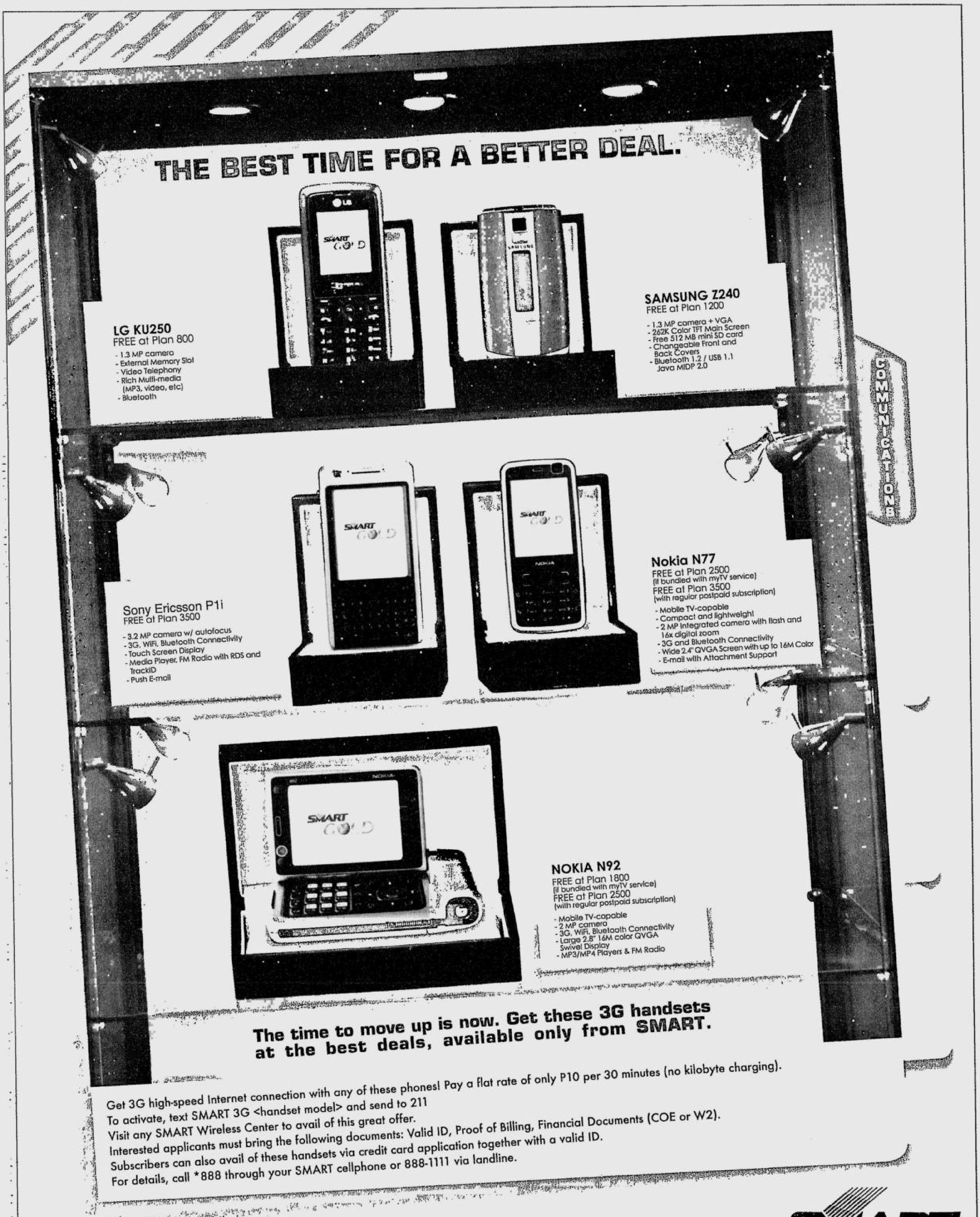
The Cavite-based Girlstown won the title with 15 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals for their 19th title in 20 years.

Deposed champion SOM-Boystown could only muster bronze medals in football and sepak takraw and placed second to its sister school with a 13-9-3 output.

Sports equipment worth P40,000 and a trophy await the champions during the formal awarding ceremonies on Sept. 13 at the Manila Pavilion Hotel.

Boystown will receive P20,000 worth of sports gear and a trophy.

In the elementary level, AC Herrera ES (9-5-7) overtook St. Paul-Pasig (8-7-5) and first-weekend leader Valenzuela Central (6-0-2). Pending the final results in badminton and lawn tennis, however, no winner could be declared yet.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Gov't defers sale of SMC, Meralco stakes

Move due to unfavorable market conditions

By Michelle V. Remo

AS CONCERNS OVER THE US SUBPRIME MARKET crisis spilled over to the local equities market, the national government has moved the sale of its stakes in Manila Electric Co. and San Miguel Corp. to 2008.

Despite the delay, the Department of Finance said the government was still poised to exceed its privatization revenue target for this year by more than P50 billion, saying there were still high-value assets in the pipeline for the remainder of the year.

Global equities markets suffered heavy selling in the wake of the credit crunch caused by the worsening US subprime crisis.

Since the subprime woes were magnified in July, Philippine stock prices wiped out the record gains registered in the first half of 2007.

Aside from the unfavorable market condition, unfinished discussions between the government and various farmers' groups on the use of the proceeds from the sale of the San Miguel stake were delaying its privatization.

Even excluding its 24-percent stake in San Miguel and 12-percent interest in Meralco from this year's privatization program, the DOF said the government was still likely to raise P86.1 billion before the year ends. This would be much higher than the official revenue target of raising P25.6 billion from privatization this year.

From January to July, the government raised P42.9 billion from the sale of its entire 46-percent stake in Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. (PTIC), a 20-percent interest in Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC), and 4.6-percent holdings in Philippine National Bank, and the old Iloilo airport property.

GOV'T/B2

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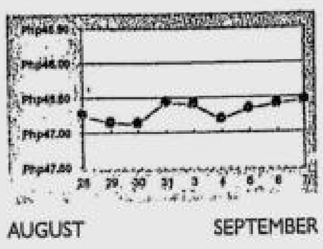

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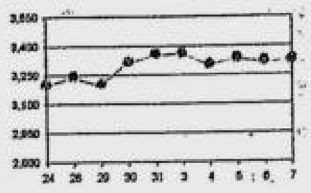

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Cautious trading seen

TRADING IS LIKELY TO HIT A CAUTIOUS note this week as investors await the verdict on former President Joseph Estrada's plunder case and developments in global financial markets, analysts said.

AB Capital Securities wrote in a weekly report to clients that market players were also waiting for the Sept. 18 meeting of the US Federal Open Market Committee on whether or not to cut its federal funds rate.

Late last week, US Fed Chair Ben Bernanke reassured the markets that he was aware of the current credit turmoil, market volatility, and its potential to undermine the broad economy. This was interpreted by most as a hint that the Fed will be making a rate cut.

"More data will be needed and a key data will be the US jobs data. If they will announce a low number and a rise in the unemployment rate, then this will add more pressure on the Fed to cut (interest rate)," AB Capital Securities wrote.

Overnight Friday, however, Wall Street shares fell as data showed a surprise decline in US payrolls, the first in four years, fanning fears that the world's biggest economy was slowing.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average tumbled 214.28 points (1.6 percent) to 13,149.07 and the Nasdaq slid 54.25 points (2.08 percent) to 2,560.07. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

Bad loan ratio hits post-Asian crisis low of 5.21%

By Doris C. Dumlao

COMMERCIAL BANKS' BAD LOANS FELL TO A new post-Asian crisis low of 5.21 percent of total loans in June as banks intensified efforts to get rid of soured assets, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported.

The decline in the nonperforming loan ratio from the previous month's 5.33 percent occurred as the decline in soured loans outpaced the slowdown in total loan portfolio, based on the BSP report released Friday.

The latest NPL ratio is now even closer to the average 3-4 percent seen before the Asian currency crisis of 1997. The banking system's NPL ratio peaked at 18.81 percent in October 2001 as many corporate borrowers defaulted on their debts while banks turned cautious in providing new loans after the Asian turmoil resulted in sharp currency devaluation and interest rate increases.

The latest BSP report showed that NPLs declined by 2.45 percent to P104.37 billion from the end-May level of P106.99 billion. The coverage ratio for these NPLs was 83.91 percent, which means that for every P1 of these bad loans, banks have set aside an average 84 centavos in loss provisions.

The month-on-month decline in the bad loan stock edged out the 0.19-percent decline in total loan portfolio to P2 trillion from P2.01 trillion.

But while banks have reduced their NPL burden, their stock of idle real and property assets arising from foreclosures on delinquent mortgages was higher at P162.11 billion. Compared to a month ago, the level fell from P163.11 billion.

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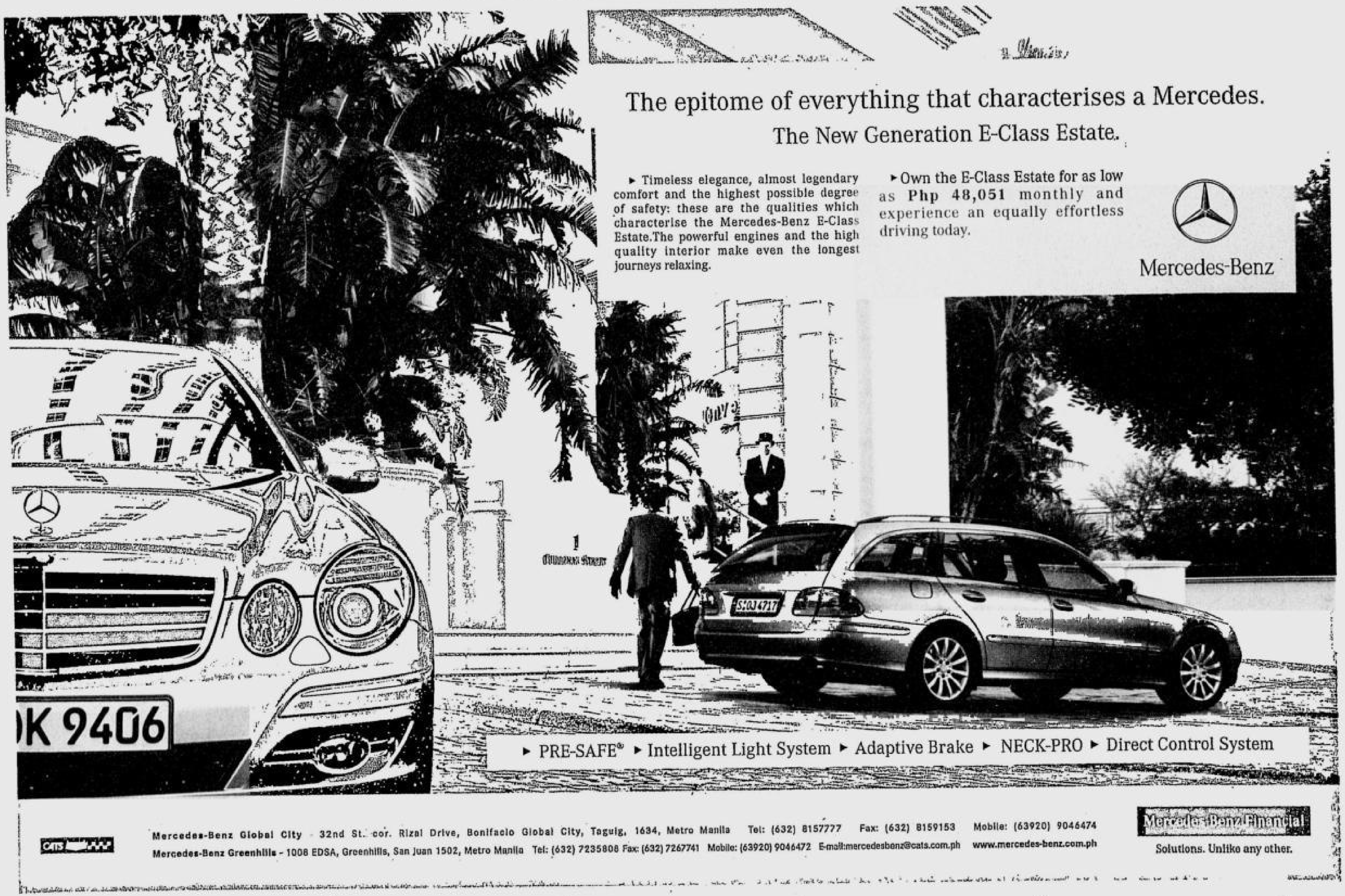

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BIR to audit tax compliance of conglomerates

Agency to check transactions among subsidiaries

By Michelle V. Remo

HOPING TO PUT MORE TEETH INTO ITS antitax evasion drive, the Bureau of Internal Revenue said it would conduct a tax audit on the country's conglomerates.

In a statement, the BIR said its Large Taxpayers Service would consider conglomerates the top priority in its tax audit in the remaining months of the year.

"A focus on the audit of conglomerates will achieve a more comprehensive audit on interrelated transactions and possible tax avoidance/evasion schemes being employed intentionally or unintentionally by these parties," the BIR said.

The BIR said revenue authorities, headed by LTS officials Cesar Charlie Lim and Rey Asterio Tambis, began meeting with officials of conglomerates to inform them of the upcoming tax audit.

Last Friday, the BIR representatives met with the comptrollers and finance officers of the Lopez group of companies at the ABS-CBN building in Quezon City. The meeting highlighted the programs of the LTS for the remainder of the year. LTS accounts for about 60 percent of the BIR's total revenue collection.

The BIR said it was set to issue letters of authority (LAs) to revenue officers who will be tasked to conduct tax audits.

The tax-collecting agency said that following the tax audit of conglomerates, the BIR's LTS would focus its audit on a per-industry basis. The following industries to be prioritized in the audit are: Hospitality, transportation and other related industries; construction, steel industry and real estate development; food and beverage; banking and financial activities; insurance; wholesale and retail; telecommunications, broadcast media and related services; pharmaceuticals, chemicals and related industries; and other miscellaneous services.

To aid in the conduct of its tax audits, the BIR has tasked companies covered by the LTS to comply with the requirement of submitting their financial statements and tax returns electronically.

"We are appealing to you to help us more by increasing your tax compliance. Our collection efforts will be a step in the formation of a better environment for business growth and opportunities wherein you, our valued taxpayers, will also be the long term beneficiaries," Lim and Tambis said.

The BIR, the biggest revenue earner among government agencies, is tasked to collect P765 billion this year. The goal is consistent with the government's target of reducing its budget deficit to only P63 billion this year from last year's P64.8 billion.

In the first half, the BIR recorded a P38.6-billion shortfall in tax collection.

Revenue officials said the BIR met its collection target for July and was likely to have also achieved its goal for August. The agency, however, has to exceed its goals in the remaining months of the year by P38.6 billion to ensure it meets its target for 2007.

Besides requiring the LTS to audit conglomerates and large companies, the BIR also earlier directed revenue district offices nationwide to conduct a massive tax audit on at least 30 percent of taxpayers under their jurisdiction.

Gov't defers sale of SMC ...

From page B1

In the remaining months of this year, state assets still up for sale are the government's remaining 40-percent stake in PNOC-EDC and the government's property in Fujimi, Japan.

The government expects to raise P39 billion from the sale of its remaining shares in PNOC-EDC, possibly through the stock market

Another P3 billion is expected to be raised from the sale of Fujimi property.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government had to surpass the privatization revenue target for this year to make up for the shortfall in tax collection.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs, the two-biggest revenue earners for the government, both fell short of their targets in the first half. Their combined shortfall stood at about P52 billion.

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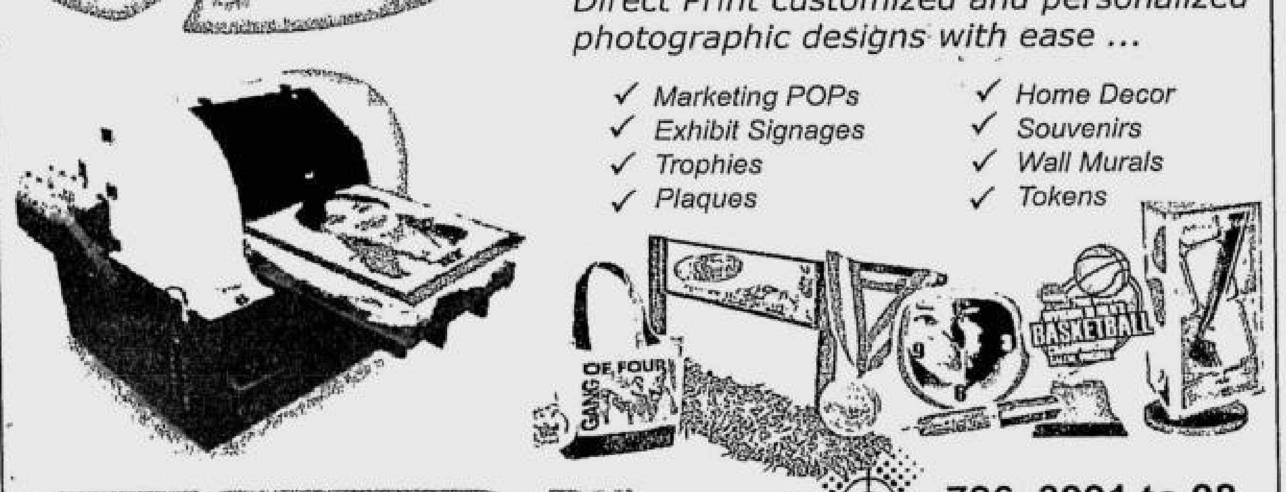

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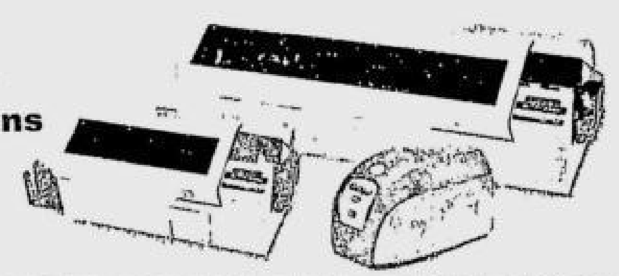

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UBS bullish on RP banks, sees more mergers

By Doris C. Dumlao

INVESTMENT banking giant UBS is upbeat on Philippine banks due to reforms seen leading to better asset quality, loan growth and operating efficiency.

In a briefing last Friday, UBS Securities Philippines Inc. research director Minda Olonan projected that bank lending in the Philippines would grow by 8-10 percent this year, net of interbank accounts.

"Banks right now, being very liquid, are well positioned to meet the credit upswing," she said.

On the macroeconomic front, she said interest rates would remain low.

"While interest rates might have bottomed, it's still supportive of potential growth in credit demand," she said, "If you look at the second quarter GDP (gross domestic product) result, it seems that the macroeconomy is growing much faster than expected, which is also supportive of the banking sector in general."

She added that banks' stock of bad loans had gone down to manageable levels and were close to pre-Asian crisis levels.

"And as improved property prices are helping banks get rid of their foreclosed assets, the trend really is on cleaning up their asset portfolio," she said.

The analyst also cited evidence of recovery in loan demand, initially fueled by consumer credit or loans granted to households to purchase a house or a car.

She said an annual consumer credit growth of 20 percent appeared sustainable.

"Going forward, we see big infrastructure spending to support a more broad-based growth in loans and improved business confidence to support a resumption in middle-market credit demand," she said.

Mergers and acquisitions (M&As) were likewise seen to be more "value enhancing" this time compared to the early 2000s when the banking sector's bad loans peaked following the Asian crisis of 1997.

She said banks' books were now a lot cleaner and there's much better disclosure with the shift to international accounting standards.

Olonan said there was still room for the big three—Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Bank of the Philippine Islands and Banco de Oro—to acquire other banks.

"But I think the focus now is not acquiring to be big but the acquisition they're looking now is banks with a certain specific niche," she said.

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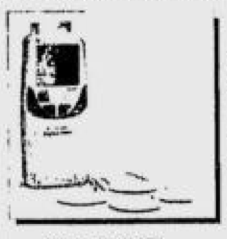

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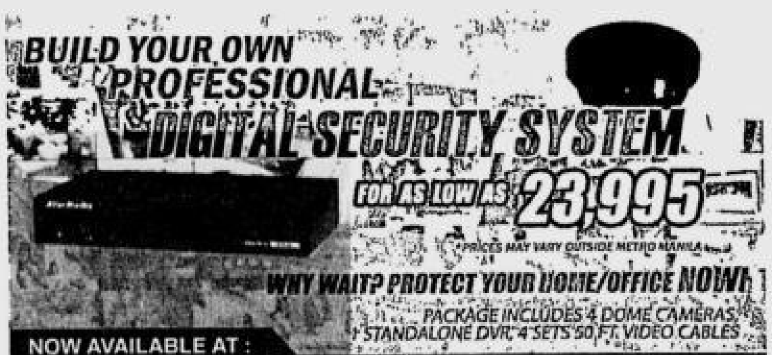

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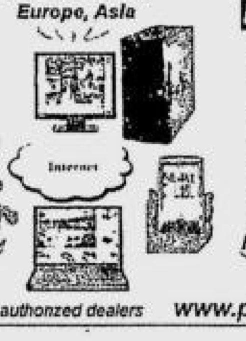

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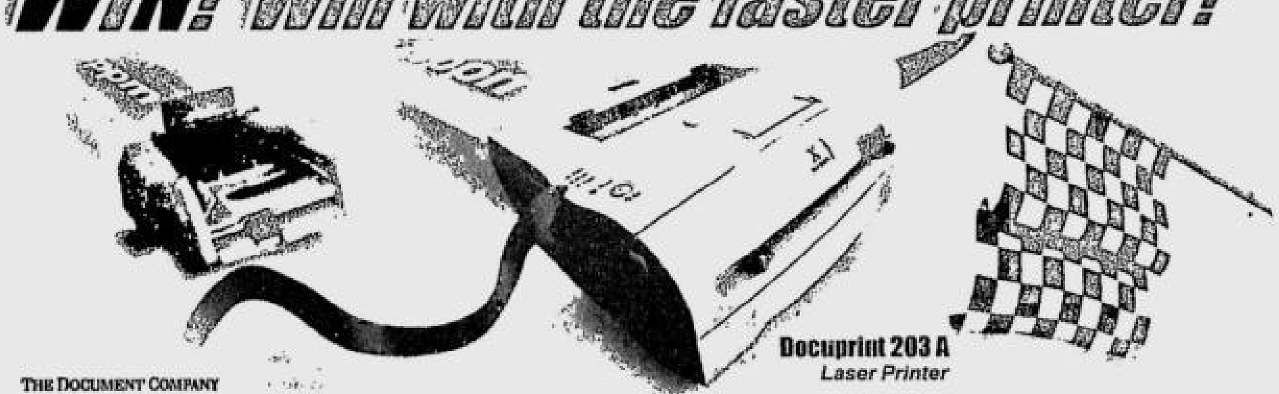

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SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	Pls. Call/1,250,000*	1,050,000
Alta Vista A/B*/Corp.**	-	260,000/Pls. Call*
Baguio Country Club	580,000	550,000
Camp John Hay	330,000	280,000
Canlubang Golf	500,000	440,000
Canyon Woods	90,000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls. Call	2,000,000
Club Filipino	120,000	Pls. Call
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	Pls. Call*	200,000*
Eastridge A/B*	130,000	Pls. Call
Fairways & Bluewater	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*	Pls. Call
Luisita Golf B	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Manila Golf Corporate	24,000,000	20,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	18,000,000
Manila Polo	Pls. Call	4,500,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	280,000/Pls. Call*	250,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	Pls. Call	180,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	250,000	150,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	160,000	-
Mimosa C1/C2*/C3**	220,000/680,000**	150,000/250,000*
Mt. Malarayat A	180,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/250,000*/350,000**	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	120,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	170,000*/250,000**	130,000*/150,000**
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	240,000
Royale Tagaytay CC	65,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/130,000*	100,000*
Splendido Taal	200,000	Pls. Call
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	2,100,000	1,600,000
The Palms Country Club	380,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	290,000
Tagaytay Highlands	680,000	630,000
Tagaytay Midlands	670,000	630,000
The Country Club	2,200,000	-
Tower Club A/B*	180,000	-
Valley Golf	250,000	Pls. Call
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	10,000,000	9,500,000

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Currencies

September 9, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.730460	1.000000	46.6860
Japan	Yen	0.006333	0.008670	0.4048
United Kingdom	Pound	1.478451	2.024000	94.4925
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.093783	0.128389	5.9940
Switzerland	Franc	0.608109	0.832501	38.8661
Canada	Dollar	0.694024	0.950119	44.3573
Singapore	Dollar	0.479903	0.656987	30.6721
Australia	Dollar	0.604586	0.827678	38.6410
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.938589	2.653928	123.9013
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.194753	0.266617	12.4473
Brunei	Dollar	0.478332	0.654836	30.5717
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000077	0.000106	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022685	0.031056	1.4499
UAE	Dirham	0.198873	0.272257	12.7106
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.369000	63.9131
Korea	Won	0.000778	0.001065	0.0497
China	Yuan**	0.096898	0.132654	6.1931
Denmark	Kroner	0.134300	0.183857	8.5835
India	Rupee	0.017982	0.024618	1.1493
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.208614	0.285592	13.3331
New Zealand	Dollar	0.505543	0.692089	32.3109
Sweden	Kroner	0.107069	0.146578	6.8431
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022111	0.030270	1.4132

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Sept. 6, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 6, 2007.

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Quotation as of September 10, 2007

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,200,000	1,050,000
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,250,000	1,100,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	550,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	330,000	300,000
CANLUBANG	480,000	450,000
CAPITOL HILLS	40,000	-
CEBU COUNTRY CLUB	-	2,000,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	120,000	90,000
CLUB FILIPINO	120,000	90,000
EAGLERIDGE "A"	180,000	-
EAGLERIDGE "B"	250,000	-
EAGLERIDGE "C"	330,000	-
FOREST HILLS "A"	90,000	80,000
LUISITA GOLF "A"	330,000	270,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	250,000	220,000
MANILA GOLF (CORP)	26,300,000	20,000,000
MANILA GOLF (IND)	23,000,000	18,000,000
MANILA POLO	-	4,400,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	300,000	280,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	650,000	-
MANILA YACHT CLUB	200,000	-
MIMOSA (IND)	220,000	-
MT. MALARAYAT GOLD "A"	160,000	100,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	170,000	150,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	300,000	280,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	330,000	300,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	170,000	130,000
ROCKWELL CLUB	350,000	250,000
SPA & LODGE	500,000	450,000
STA. ELENA "A"	1,900,000	1,700,000
STA. ELENA "B"	2,300,000	2,050,000
TAGAYTAY COUNTRY CLUB	320,000	290,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	700,000	650,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	650,000	630,000
THE PALMS COUNTRY CLUB "A"	360,000	320,000
VALLE VERDE (IND)	90,000	80,000
VALLEY GOLF	Please Call	210,000
WACK-WACK GOLF CLUB	10,000,000	Please Call

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- Fed up with cussing and feuding neighbors?
- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/dreadful finds on your way to work?

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

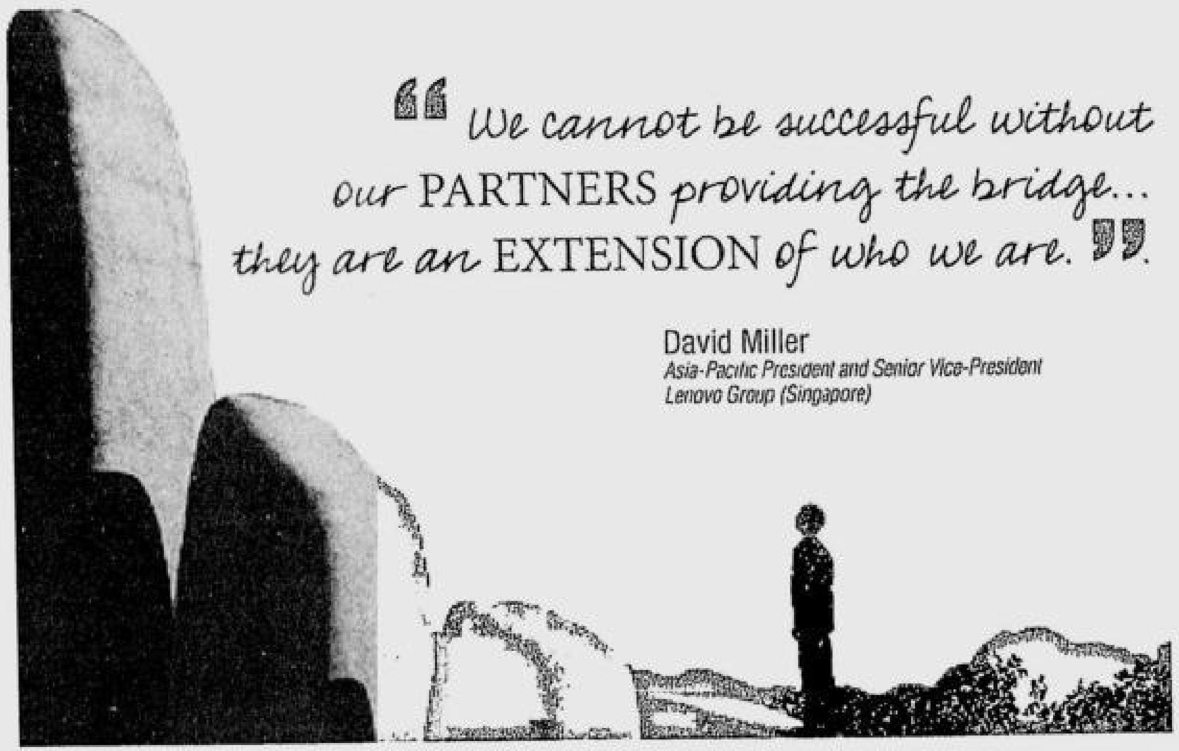
(As of September 9, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
73	36.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	56.5	58	56.5	58	544,400
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	61.5	63	61.5	63	1,334,700
935	630	China Banking Corp.	805	805	800	800	7,640
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.41	1,220,000
75.5	38	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	56.5	56.5	54.5	55	3,860,800
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	46.5	46.5	46	46	65,000
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	63	63	63	63	500
39.57	14.57	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	23.75	24	23.5	23.75	770,300
66	42.53	Union Bank of the Philippines	57	58	57	57.5	2,292,500
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.2	4.2	4	4	12,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2.08	2.14	1.92	2.1	3,493,000
16.25	2.6	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12.25	12.25	11.5	11.75	595,300
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.98	1	0.98	1	70,000
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	5,000
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.35	759,000
3.1	1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.94	1.98	1.92	1.98	114,000
1,005.00	225	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	785	785	785	785	70
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	58,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.2	966,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.29	310,000
70	47.5	First Gen Corp.	65.5	65.5	65	65.5	364,300
92	45	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	76	76	76	76	447,200
15	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	14	14	13.75	13.75	2,354,900
105.45	16.36	Manila Electric Co.	81	83	80.5	81.5	1,762,200
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	20,921,000
6.5	3.75	Petron Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.4	4,982,000
14.75	6.7	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	6.9	7.1	6.8	7	266,000
1.9	0.95	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.24	1.24	1,813,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.95	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	336,000
2.95	1.86	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.06	2.06	2	2	2,000
2.65	1.08	CADP Group Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	24	25.5	24	25.5	22,800
61	33	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53.5	53.5	51.5	53	260,000
1.96	0.78	RFM Corp.	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.62	200,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	15,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	62	62	62	62	14,000
88	60	San Miguel Corp. "B"	64.5	65	64	64.5	356,200
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.75	3,420,400
0.55	0.205	Vitarich Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	60,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.59	EEI Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.3	4.3	366,000
7	1.28	Republic Cement Corp.	4.1	4.1	4	4	3,000
2	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	4,339,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.1	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	221,000
2.5	1.32	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	20,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.1	Picop Resources Inc.	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.36	25,810,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.86	A. Soriano Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	261,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.11	0.09	0.1	125,100,000
1.28	0.21	APC Group Inc.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.6	8,960,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	3	3.1	3	3.05	1,007,000
3.7	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3.4	3.4	3.15	3.35	177,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	39,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	1,300,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	3,057,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	63,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.2	19,715,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.26	2.3	2.2	2.22	2,537,000
590	370.83	Ayala Corp.	467.5	472.5	465	472.5	170,100
14.5	7.04	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	5,600
5.8	1.18	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.65	3.7	12,997,000
10.25	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.1	8	8.1	159,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	15,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	10,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	101,000
14.5	5.7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	27,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.72	1.9	1.72	1.74	510,000
11.5	0.98	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.65	5.2	4.65	5.1	6,746,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.3	448,000
0.215	0.01	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.18	0.215	0.16	0.165	2,418,020,000
1.54	0.76	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	100,000
0.75	0.17	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	620,000
452.5	215.79	SM Investments Corp.	365	370	360	370	57,770
2.1	1	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	10,000
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	4,200,000
1.6	0.88	South China Resources Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.46	24,000
2.9	0.8	Vivant Corp.	2	2	2	2	1,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.31	0.33	8,470,000
1.1	0.22	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.56	0.7	0.56	0.7	40,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.78	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.44	249,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings, Inc	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.5	157,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc	14	14.25	14	14.25	1,411,800
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.1	2,024,000
0.86	0.29	Crown Equities Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	1,400,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	450,000
0.99	0.49	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.68	15,060,000
0.47	0.048	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.23	0.245	0.23	0.23	13,600,000
1.48	0.43	Fil-Estate Land Inc	1.12	1.18	1.12	1.18	17,524,000
2.44	1.09	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.46	1.46	42,368,000
0.49	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	690,000
0.5	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	200,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.61	10,380,000
4.4	1.64	Megaworld Corp.	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.4	28,457,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	660,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	1,530,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	3,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	17.75	18.25	17.75	18	62,800
5.9	1.5	SM Development Corp.	4	4	4	4	436,000
13.5	6.24	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	2,776,300
3.25	0.85	Shang Properties Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	100,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	260,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.26	3,560,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	4.95	5	4.95	5	1,558,000
		MEDIA					
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.6	755,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	468,000
1,445.00	1,025.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,345.00	1,345.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	101,700
2,820.00	1,980.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co	2,720.00	2,720.00	2,695.00	2,700.00	127,130
7.9	4.1	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	134,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.195	5,220,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.2	9.8	9.2	9.8	5,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.6	8.8	8.5	8.8	362,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.031	0.032	0.03	0.032	55,100,000
2.9	1.56	Ionics Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	60,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.215	0.23	0.205	0.205	294,020,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	300,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.048	65,000,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.65	3.05	2.65	2.85	15,750,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.62	1.78	143,000
6.8	3.05	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.7	3.95	3.7	3.8	321,000
34.5	14.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc	31.5	32	31.5	32	323,300
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.18	1.4	1.18	1.4	60,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.75	450,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	410,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	2.8	3.05	2.8	3.05	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	4.3	4.35	4.25	4.3	278,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	250,300
30	9.9	Paxys Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	32,300
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	47,000,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	4.8	5.2	4.8	5.1	1,080,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	4.8	5.3	4.8	5.1	220,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	13.75	14.5	13.5	14.5	6,065,500
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	11	11.25	10	10	8,000
5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	65,000
3.1	0.33	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	1.54	1.76	1.52	1.7	177,611,000
0.35	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	59,450,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	19,830,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.024	0.027	0.024	0.026	1,032,400,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.027	0.031	0.027	0.031	404,100,000
30	1.2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	10.75	12.5	10.75	12	3,351,100
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	347,200,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.8	6.2	5.8	6.2	40,071,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	31	32	31	32	27,200
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.04	1.04	1	1.02	2,640,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	1,963,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	3,630,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	29,800,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.023	20,200,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.5	9.7	9.4	9.7	97,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	414,000,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALU
Financial	879.59 UP	2.18	15,252,810	504,698,750 0
Industrial	4,545.97 DOWN	14.75	69,644,000	516,177,830 0
Holding Firms	1,832.90 UP	12.97	2,716,845,470	804,797,215 0
Property	1,486.43 UP	5.23	144,916,900	268,549,040 0
Service	1,609.22 DOWN	12.72	439,953,730	623,814,930 0
Mining & Oil	6,216.96 UP	467.76	2,610,808,800	748,585,570 0
All Shares Index	2,117.26 UP	1.72		
PSEI	3,332.97 UP	6.44		
		GRAND TOTALS	5,997,421,710	3,466,623,335 0

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, P



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Asia-Pacific President and Senior Vice-President
Lenovo Group (Singapore)

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Those ubiquitous Chinese loans

No Free Lunch

Cielito Habito

WITH A ZOOMING economy and about a trillion dollars in foreign reserves accumulated over years of trade surpluses, China seems to be lending money left and right, whether in Asia, Africa or Latin America. And depending on who is talking, these loans are being met with mixed feelings of suspicion, concern, appreciation and gratitude.

African onslaught

In Africa, there is concern over how African countries are accumulating new debt—being led into a new debt trap, as voiced out by some critics—just as it is emerging from decades of heavy indebtedness via generous debt relief packages from traditional creditor countries in the West.

Late last year, Beijing hosted the largest gathering of foreign leaders seen by that city, when the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which took place Nov. 4-5, 2006, attracted 48 African delegations, most of them led by heads of state. The Chinese government used the occasion to unveil a huge $5-billion trade and aid loan package aimed at cementing a "strategic partnership" with Africa. The package committed China to double its 2006 assistance to the continent within three years. The two sides also agreed to more than double their trade from $40 billion in 2005 to $100 billion by 2010. A $5-billion China-Africa Development Fund was also set up to support Chinese companies investing in Africa.

Lat-Am outreach

Halfway around the globe in Latin America, China's rapidly growing presence is being eyed with great concern by the US government, which sees the former's politico-economic agenda in their vicinity as some kind of a threat to the "hard-won progress toward representative democracy" of their nearby neighbors.

The US State Department has also questioned whether Chinese investments truly benefit the region. They point out that substantial investments in the region are typically accompanied and facilitated by cheap government-to-government loans that require work to be done by Chinese companies. Furthermore, they observe that investments focus heavily on extracting raw materials rather than providing jobs and opportunities for workers to build skills. The Americans also see the Taiwan factor in the Chinese initiatives in their neighborhood, noting how Dominica and Grenada broke ties with Taiwan in favor of China, while Jamaica opened an embassy in Beijing, soon after China pledged assistance to these countries.

Funding favorite

Closer to home, China has been quite forthcoming in granting soft loans to its Asian neighbors, including the poorer Asean member-countries with which it shares common borders. In most cases, the projects funded by those loans will clearly benefit both donor and donee. In the case of China, its projects in its immediate neighbors are seen to facilitate the movement of natural resources from its periphery to its heartland, vital to sustain its double-digit economic growth.

The current talk of the town in the Philippines are projects funded or to be funded by such soft loans from China, including the infamous ZTE National Broadband Network project, the Cyber Education Project, the Manila North Railway Project, the hybrid rice seeds program, and a host of others. Suddenly, Chinese loans have become a favorite financing source for all sorts of government projects. Why such a fuss over Chinese loans?

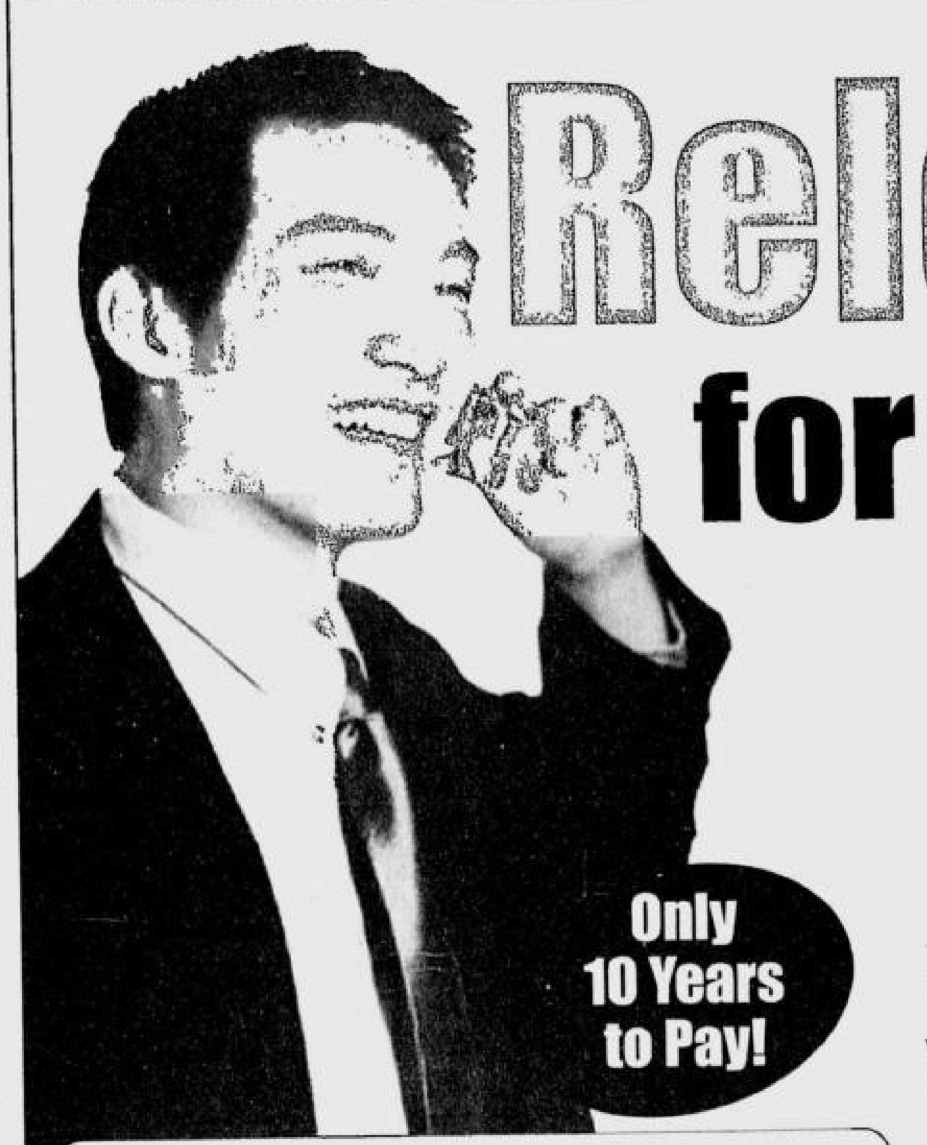
No conditionalities

For the government recipients, the loans from China are a welcome alternative to more expensive loans from the multilateral lending agencies such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, which charge around 7-percent annual interest on their loans, against China's 3 percent. But the other feature of the Chinese loans that government borrowers like, whether in the Philippines or in the other countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, is the absence of various conditionalities normally imposed by the traditional lenders. Chinese money is usually not linked to conditions for environmental standards or community resettlement, or subject to strict criteria on corruption, that have become regular features of WB and ADB loans. It is not clear, though, whether absence of such conditionalities leads to superior project outcomes.

Tied loans

While there may be no difficult conditionalities tied to the Chinese loans, the loans are tied in another crucial way: The loans require the use of Chinese suppliers and contractors. This practice of tying loans to donor country suppliers has long been abandoned by traditional donors, who now provide for international competitive bidding of loan-funded projects to ensure that the borrower can obtain the best value for money.

NO FREE LUNCH/ B7



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200	269,280	315,180
300	403,920	472,770
400	538,560	630,360
500	673,200	787,950
1000	1,346,400	1,575,900

HOSPITALIZATION

Plan	Hospitalization Benefits
100	P200/day
200	P400/day
300	P600/day
400	P800/day
500	P1,000/day
1000	P2,000/day

*The guaranteed cash benefits specified above can only be given to you at the end of the 20-year protection period. However, any hospitalization claims made during the policy period will be deducted from your guaranteed cash benefits.

AMOUNT OF PREMIUMS

Plan	MONTHLY 18-47	MONTHLY 48-55	ANNUAL 18-47	ANNUAL 48-55
100	806.00	831.00	8,270.00	8,520.00
200	1,030.00	1,206.00	10,560.00	12,360.00
300	1,545.00	1,809.00	15,840.00	18,540.00
400	2,060.00	2,412.00	21,120.00	24,720.00
500	2,575.00	3,015.00	26,400.00	30,900.00
1000	5,150.00	6,030.00	52,800.00	61,800.00

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3 P 1 Million Hospitalization Benefit
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E-mail: idirect@express.insular.com.ph
Website: www.insularlife.com.ph

You may photocopy the MONEY BACK RELOADED Application Form if you need additional copies for other interested applicants

Money Back RELOADED APPLICATION FORM

☑ YES! I want my 4-in-1 protection!
Send me my Insular Life Money Back Reloaded. I understand that the policy will be in force when I have made my first premium payment.

ABOUT THE APPLICANT / OWNER / PAYOR (PLEASE WRITE IN PRINT)
FIRST MIDDLE LAST
Name:
Home Address:
Postal Code:
Home Tel. / Fax No.:
Civil Status:
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy):
Age:
Place of Birth:
Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female
Occupation:
Monthly Income:
Company:
Business Address:
Postal Code:
TIN #:
SSS #:
Office Tel. / Fax No.
e-mail Address:
Send my insurance documents to my: ☐ Business Address ☐ Home Address
I want the coverage of: ☐ PLAN 100 ☐ PLAN 200 ☐ PLAN 400 ☐ PLAN 500 ☐ PLAN 800 ☐ PLAN 1000 ☐ Others ____
I prefer to pay: ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-annually ☐ Annually
In case of premium default, I elect (check one only):
☐ Cash Surrender Value ☐ Extended Term Insurance ☐ Automatic Payment of Premium
In the absence of such an election and should the premium due continue to be in default until the end of the grace period provided in the Policy, this Policy shall automatically continue in force as non-participating Extended Term Insurance.
Policy Dividend Option (check one only):
☐ Paid in Cash ☐ Used to reduce premiums ☐ Left with the company to earn interest
If none is chosen, "Left with company to earn interest" shall be applied. • If "Left with the company to earn interest" is elected or applied, I hereby authorize the Company to apply policy dividends, together with the available cash values, for payment of the premiums under any of the Premium Default Options in effect and/or policy loan interest. It is understood that I also have the option to withdraw any available accumulated dividends left on deposit with the Company. • Policy dividends, if any, shall be determined exclusively by the Company. Policy dividends are not guaranteed as they vary depending on certain factors such as the Company's mortality experience, investment returns, taxes and expenses. As such, the Company does not guarantee that policy dividends shall be sufficient to pay for any future premiums.

Insurance benefits are to be paid to:
Beneficiary/ie
Relationship to the Insured:
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy):
Age:
e default beneficiary designation Primary Revo unless specified otherwise

1. During the past 5 years, have you consulted a physician for medical attention or surgical advice, or bee confined in a hospital, sanitarium or similar institution? ☐ YES ☐ NO
2. Have you ever been told you had: cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, heart trouble, high blood pressure or tuberculosis, kidney disorder, nervous disorder or HIV-AIDS? (If YES, underline which ailment.) ☐ YES ☐ NO
3. Are you now in good health? ☐ YES ☐ NO
4. What is your HEIGHT? ____ ____ ft., WEIGHT? ____ lbs.

Important: If you answered "YES" to any of the questions above, please give full details. Include doctor's nar address, hospital, nature, date and result of consultation, ailment or impairment. Use separate sheet if necessar.

I understand that this insurance is issued based on the above statements, which I represent are true and comp the best of my knowledge and belief. I authorize any physician, hospital, clinic or other medically-related fa furnish The INSULAR LIFE Assurance Company, Ltd. with any information concerning my medical history and p condition. I understand that the policy will not be in force until I have made the first premium payment

✓
APPLICANT / OWNER / INSURED (Printed Name and Signature) Date

DECLARATION ON THE PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING POLICY(IES)
*For the APPLICANT-OWNER to answer
1 Total Life Insurance in Force on Proposed Insured
Company Basic/Cover Accident Rider/Year of Issue

IMPORTANT : If yes, please furnish details (name of company, policy number, and amount of insurance replaced).

REMINDER: it is usually disadvantageous to REPLACE existing life insurance policy(ies) with a new one. disadvantages are: • You may not be insurable on standard terms. • You may have to pay a higher premium in higher age. • You may lose financial benefits accumulated over the years.

Please note that in your own interest, we would advise that you consult your present insurer before making a final decision. Hear from both sides and make a comparison. You can then be sure that you are making a decision that is in your best interest.

2. Has there been or will there be any change in any existing insurance in force? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Will premiums for the insurance applied for be paid by a policy loan from any existing policy? ☐ Yes ☐ No

✓
APPLICANT / OWNER / INSURED (Printed Name and Signature)

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MEGA MANILA

ANTIPOLO

SAM_ANT 001 RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA. 460 sqm.(near Mala Alta)
Midvale St., Sta. Monica II,
Filinvest Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P1,311,000

SAM ANT 002 RESIDENTIAL LOT
Parkridge Estate
(near valley golf subd.)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
400 sqm.	P	560,000
415 sqm.	P	581,000
483 sqm.	P	606,200
562 sqm.	P	786,800
651 sqm.		991,400
1,984 sqm.	P	2,777,600

SAM ANT 006 RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 400 sqm (near Tak-Tak Subd.)
Montecarlo St., Antipolo Greenheights
Min. Bid Price: P 452,000

SAM_ANT007 FARM LOT
LA. 2,040 sqm.
(near Seven Dolours School)
Cor. Kasoy/Avocado Sts.
Phil Farm Village, Brgy. St. Nino
Min. Bid Price: P 3,876,000

SAM_ANT015 AGRI LOT
LA. 9,989 sqm.
(near Heavens Gate Memorial)
Bo. Cupang, Antipolo
Min. Bid Price:P1,000,000

SAM_ANT498 RSD'L LOT
Village East Ave. Vill. East Subd.

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
263sqm.	P	651,284
269sqm	P	666,142

CALOOCAN

SAM CAL019 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,440 sqm.
(near Pag-ibig Mutual Fund)
Ga. Tirona & Gregoria de Jesus Sts.
Balintawak
Min. Bid Price: P8,640,000

SAM CAL021 RSDL LOT
LA. 405 sqm.
Miramonte Heights, Camarin
Min. Bid Price: P218,250

SAM CAL022 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,000 sm. (Near Vicas Market)
Lot 828-B-1-C Susano Road
Min. Bid Price: P7,500,000

SAM_ CAL023 RSDL LOT
LA. 736 sqm.
(Near J.P Rizal Exit, Bagong Sibul St.)
Paulicas St., Maypajo
Min. Bid Price: P3,680,000

MALABON

SAM- MLB499 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 7,546 sqm. FA. 165 sqm.
(Near Hulo Market)
#165 Panghulo Rd. Brgy. Panghulo
Min. Bid Price: P18,865,000

MANILA

SAM_MNL030 RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA. 836 sqm.(near SM Sta. Mesa)
Pina Ave. Sampaloc
Min. Bid Price:P8,739,540

SAM_MNL031 RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA. 844 40 sqm. (near Lourdes Hosp.)
First St. Sta. Mesa
Min. Bid Price: P8,356,800

SAM_MLA032 WAREHSE CONDO
FA. 172.29 sqm.
New Divisoria Shopping
Center,Tabora cor.
Sta. Elena Sts. Binondo
Min. Bid Price: P 8,054,558

SAM_MLA033 RSDL TOWNHOUSE
LA. 183.97 sqm. (near St. Ann Academy)
Unit 11 Sta. Ana Villas
No. 2215 Pedro Gil St.
Min. Bid Price: P4,370,000

MUNTINLUPA

SAM MUN035 RSDL LOT
LA. 300 sqm. FA. 1,507.57 sqm.
(new New Daang Hari Rd)
East Meadow St. Diamond Park,
Victoria Homes, Tunasan
Min. Bid Price:P750,000

PARANAQUE

SAM_PRQ038 RSDL LOT
LA. 580 sqm.(beside Marville Subd.)
Pres. M. Roxas Ave.
South Admiral Vil., Ibayo
Min. Bid Price:P3,245,000

SAM_PRQ044 COMM'L OFC CONDO
FA. 187.90 sqm.
(near Baclaran Church,Mall of Asia)
Unit 405 Chateau De Bale,
149 Roxas Blvd.
Min. Bid Price · P5,355,150

PASAY

SAM_PSY058 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,530.00 sqm. FA. 1,884 sqm.
(infront of Cartimar Shopping Center)
Taft Ave. cor G. Villanueva St. Sta. Clara
Min. Bid Price:P33,675,000

SAM_PSY066 COMM'L LOT
LA. 3,008 sqm.(near Traders Hotel)
Roxas Blvd. San Rafael Dist.
Min. Bid Price:P60,160,000

PASIG

SAM_PSG068 RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA. 15,199.32 sqm.
(near Ever Gotesco,Ortigas)
Riverside Vill. Bo. Rosario
Min. Bid Price·P75,996,600

QUEZON CITY

SAM_NCT375 HOUSE& LOT
LA. 600 sqm. FA. 945.50 sqm
(near SM Fairview)
Fuer de Les Mariposa St. Geneva
Garden Neopolitan
Min. Bid Price:P4,000,000

SAM_QCB074 2 STRY RSDL BLDG.
LA. 190 sqm. FA. 293 sqm.
(near Pascual Liner Bus Compound)
#20 San Pablo St. Gulod, Novaliches
Min. Bid Price: P1,495,300

SAM_QCB075 RSD'L CONDO
FA 97.28 sqm.(near Tenyaki Boy Resto)
Atherton Place Condominium,
Tomas Morato
Min. Bid Price:P 3,404,800

SAM_QCB076 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 289.70 sqm. FA. 402 sqm.
(Near Araneta Ave.)
#18 Palanza St., Santol District
Min. Bid Price: P 6,056,250

SAM QCB078 COMM'L. LOT
LA. 675 sqm.
(near Don A. Roces High Sch.)
Roces Ave./Sct. Castor St. Diliman
Min. Bid Price: P13,081,500

SAM QCBO79 RSDL LOT
Neopolitan VII-Geneva Gardens
North Fairview
(along Don Mariano Marcos Ave.)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
300 sqm.	P	714,000
315 sqm.	P	749,700
398 sqm.	P	947,240
450 sqm.	P	1,071,000
542 sqm.	P	1,289,960
3,505 sqm.	P	9,814,000
4,725 sqm.	P	15,257,436

SAM_QCB080 RSD'L LOT
Neopolitan VI, Sitio Nevilla,
North Fairview

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
300sqm	P	920,290
366sqm	P	1,122,754
377sqm	P	1,156,498
382sqm	P	1,171,836

SAM_QCL081 RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA. 506 sqm.
(near Ateneo,Miriam College)
Emilio Jacinto cor. Sultan Kudarat St.
Ayala Heights Balara District
Min. Bid Price:P9,614,000

SAM_QCB082 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 240 sqm. FA. 74 sm.
(Near Mayon St.)
Wakat St. Gintong Silahis
Min. Bid Price.P1,885,000

SAM_QCB083 RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA. 537 sqm.
(Adjacent to Marytown Schl.)
Mary Town Circle Rd. Greenfield Subd.
Galgayahan Novaliches
Min. Bid Price·P1,932,959

SAM_QCB084 RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA. 2,399 sqm.
(Near Intersection of Edsa
and North Expressway)
Brgy. Unang Sigaw
Min. Bid Price:P10,195,750

SAM_QCB085 COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 1,310 sqm. FA. 1,991 sqm
(Near Tierra Pura Subdivision)
Jorjo Bldg., Tandang Sora Ave. Culiat
Min. Bid Price: P 21,802,500

SAM_QCL086 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,355 sqm. (Near Sandigan Bldg.)
Don Fabian Subdivision, Capitol Dist.
Min. Bid Price: P3,829,569

SAM_QCB087 RSDL/COMM'L LOT
LA. 809.80 sqm. (near Shell Station)
Kalayaan Ave. Diliman
Min. Bid Price: P11,305,000

SAM_QCL088 RSDL LOT
LA. 750 sqm.
Katipunan Ave., Payatas
Min. Bid Price:P1,010,445

SAM_QCB089 RSDL CONDO
FA. 288.58 sqm.
(Near Welcome Rotonda)
Genesis Condo E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave.
Min. Bid Price:P6,132,325

SAM_QCB090 RSDL VAC LOT
Lot Area 300 sqm
Neopolitan 1 Villa Viena, North Fairview
(near SM Fairview) 13 lots available
Min. Bid Price: P1,050,000

SAM_QCB093 RSDL LOT
LA. 3,280 sqm. (near SM Fairview)
Neopolitan Subd. Brgy Pasong Putik
Min. Bid Price: P 10,906,000

SAM_QCB451 RSD'L BLDG
LA. 367sqm. FA. 275 sqm.
Don Jose St. Kimco Vill. Tandang Sora
Min. Bid Price: P2,300,000

RIZAL/CAINTA/TANAY

SAM RZL012 RSDL LOT
LA. 240 sqm. (near Mitsubishi)
No. 15 Baseball St.,
New Francis Village, Cainta
Min. Bid Price: P 800,000

SAM_RZL013 COMM'L LOT
LA. 754 sqm.(near Mitsubishi)
Ortigas Ave. Ext. San Isidro,Cainta
Min. Bid Price:P11,310,000

SAM_RZL014 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 180 sqm. FA. 18 sqm.
B.A. Cruz St. Brgy. Sta. Ana
Min. Bid Price: P 396,000

SAM_RZL019 RSDL LOT
LA. 3,011 sqm.
Brgy. Sampaloc, Tanay
Min. Bid Price: P1,002,250

SAM_RZL450 VACANT LOT
LA. 989 sqm.(near Daong Chapel)
Dinna Village,Tandang Kutyo,Tanay
Min. Bid Price:P148,350

SAN JUAN

SAM_SJ095 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 524 sm. FA. 90 sqm.
(near Phil. Detergents Prod.)
513 F. Manalo St.,
Min. Bid Price:P 3,563,200

SAM_SJ099 RSDL LOT
LA. 990 sqm.
(near Phil. Detergents Prod.)
F. Manalo St.
Min. Bid Price:P 3,960,000

SAM SJ100 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 534 sqm. FA. 329.65 sqm.
Gen. Bautista St. Brgy. Batis
Min. Bid Price:P 5, 395,778

TAGUIG

SAM_TAG101 FAMILY ESTATE
MEMORIAL LOTS
THE HERITAGE PARK, Fort Bonifacio

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
60 sqm.	P	3,386,400
100 sqm.	P	5,644,000
280 sqm.	P	15,013,040

VALENZUELA

SAM_VAL102 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 3,348 sqm. FA. 3,169 sqm.
(Near Malinta Exit/ Royal Mall Lords St.)
No. Paso de Blas St.
Min. Bid Price:P 16,740,000

SAM_VAL103 5-DR RSDL APRTMENT
LA. 437.70 sqm. FA. 425 sqm
(near Bayna Commercial)
Interior Lamesa St. Brgy. Ugong
Min. Bid Price: P 2,018,750

SAM_VAL106 IND'L LOT
LA. 5,782 sqm.
(near Fatima Univ. Maysan Rd)
Francisco St. PTA Compound, Balubaran
Min. Bid Price:P 17,346,000

SAM_VAL452 RSD'L LOT
LA. 654 sqm.
Quegrande St. Brgy. Ugong
Min. Bid Price: P 2,100,000

LUZON

BAGUIO
Text 09185328111

SAM_BAG107 RSDL LOT
LA. 884 sqm. (near woodsgate
Subd.Camp7) Woodsgate Square
Subd. Brgy. Camp 7
Min. Bid Price:P 3,757,000

BATAAN

SAM_ BAN460 AGRI LOT
LA. 95,734 sqm.
Alas-Asin Rd. Mariveles
Min. Bid Price: P26,848,950

BATANGAS

SAM_BAT139 RSDL LOTS
LA. 2000 sqm.
Brgy. Anilao Lipa
Min. Bid Price: P 2,550,000

BULACAN

SAM_BUL120 RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA. 300 sqm.
Catindig St. Pob. Guiguinto
Min. Bid Price:P 1,131,699

SAM_BUL122 AGRI LOT
LA. 10,801 sqm.
Brgy. San Francisco
Min. Bid Price: P 3,240,000

SAM BUL123 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 145 sqm. FA. 159 sqm.
(near Meridian Ind'l Subd.)
Brgy. Iba Meycauayan
Min. Bid Price: P 435,000

SAM_BUL124 RSDL LOT
LA. 800 sqm.
(near Sagrada Familia Church)
Perang Rd. Brgy. Catmon Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price:P 1,360,000

SAM_BUL126 RSDL LOT
LA. 130 sqm.(near SM Marilao)
Prinza St. Town & Country North
Executive Village, Marilao
Min. Bid Price: P 390,000

SAM BUL127 RSDL LOT
Gardenia St. Town & Country North
Exec.Vill. Marilao (near SM Marilao)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
135 sqm.	P	405,000
146 sqm.	P	438,000

SAM_BUL129 RSDL LOT
LA. 130 sqm.(near SM Marilao)
Tulip St. Town & Country North
Exec. Vill. Abangan Marilao
Min. Bid Price:P 390,000

SAM_BUL130 RSDL BLDG.
LA. 260 sqm. FA. 200 sqm.
(near SM Marilao) Ilang-Ilang St.
Town & Country North Exec.Vill.
Abangan Marilao
Min. Bid Price:P 1,272,000

SAM BUL131 IND'L LOT
LA. 7,272 sqm. FA. 3,943 sqm.
(Near E. A. Delos Santos
Construction Supply)
NHA Ind'l Site, Brgy. Minuyan, San
Jose Del Monte
Min. Bid Price: P 8,628,400

SAM_BUL132 AGRI LOT
LA. 7,155 sqm.
Bo. Guyong, Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 3,557,500

SAM_BUL133 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 988 sqm. FA. 65 sqm.
(near Brgy. Chapel)
Roura St. San Miguel
Min. Bid Price: P 1,304,148

SAM_BUL134 RSDL LOT
LA. 320 sqm. (Near DPWH
Warehouse)
Cityland Ave Bulacan Hts Subd.
Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 517,348

SAM_BUL135 RSDL LOT
LA. 640 sqm.
(Near DPWH Warehouse)
Greenbreeze Vill. II Pulong Buhangin
Min. Bid Price: P 1,360,000

SAM_BUL456 HOUSE & LOT
C. Mercedes St. Bo. Matungao,
Tuktukan,Pob. Guiguinto

Lot Area	Floor Area	Min. Bid Price
69,545sqm	25,270sqm	P125,181,000
21,891sqm	9,345sqm	P 39,403,800

SAM_BUL457 IND'L LOT W/ WRHSE
LA 32,671 sqm. FA. 6,040 sqm.
Bo. Camalig (Iba), Meycauan
Min. Bid Price: P109,161,403

SAM_BUL458 VACANT LOTS
LA. 60,022 sqm. (7 lots)
(Near Tabang Nlex Exit)
Phase II Sta. Clara Country Estate
Sta. Rita Guiguinto
Min. Bid Price: P63,103,591

SAM_BUL459 RSD'L LOT
LA. 10,000 sqm.
Menzyland Subd. Mojon Malolos
Min. Bid Price: P10,200,000

CAVITE

SAM_CVT142 RSDL LOT
(near Tagaytay Royale & Splendido)
Rodeo Countryside Estate,
Brgy.Esperanza, Alfonzo

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price:
1,000 sqm.	P	850,000
1,006 sqm.	P	855,100
2,271 sqm.	P	1,930,350

SAM_CVT143 RSDL CONDO
(near SLEX-Golf & Resort Vill)
Manila Southwoods Golf Manors,
Carmona

Floor Area		Min. Bid Price:
35.04 sqm.	P	805,929
38.35 sqm.	P	882,050
67.07 sqm.	P	1,542,627
67.01 sqm.	P	1,541,247
73.38 sqm.	P	1,687,758
612 sqm.	P	2,727,963

SAM_CVT145 RSDL LOT
LA. 795 sqm.
(near Robinson & SM Dasma)
Kalamansi St. Greenfield Hts. Subd.
Brgy. Bukal Dasmarinas
Min. Bid Price P 2,142,144

SAM_CVT147 RSDL LOTS
Manila Southwoods Manor, Carmona
(near SLEX-Golf & Resort Vill.)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price:
486 sqm.	P	1,458,000
520 sqm.	P	1,560,000
578 sqm.	P	1,734,000
582 sqm.	P	1,746,000
632 sqm.	P	1,896,000
740 sqm.	P	2,220,000
940 sqm.	P	2,820,000

SAM_CVT453 VACANT LOT
LA 263,062 sqm
Gov. Drive Ext. Brgy. Tanauan, Tanza
(near EPZA & Gen. Trias)
Min. Bid Price: P125,230,132

SAM_CVT454 RSDL LOT
Sherwood Hills Rsdl. Estate & Golf &
Country Club,Trece Martirez
(near SM & Robinson)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
315 sqm.	P	262,626
307 sqm.	P	275,448
323 sqm.	P	289,803
393 sqm.	P	352,609
410 sqm.	P	367,862
427 sqm.	P	383,115
523 sqm.	P	469,248
676 sqm.	P	606,523

MEGA TAGAYTAY

SAM_TGY104 RSDL LOT
Palmridge Pointe PH1 SUBD.
(w/ view of TAAL Lake & TAAL
Volcano) Brgy Balas, Talisay

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
362 sqm.	P	651,600
412 sqm.	P	741,600
463 sqm.	P	833,400
511 sqm.	P	919,800
527 sqm.	P	948,600
529 sqm.	P	952,200
614 sqm	P	1,105,200

LAGUNA

SAM_LGN150 RSDL LOT W/ HOT SPRING
LA. 2,990 sqm. (Jamaica Hills Subd.)
National Rd., Brgy. Bambang, Los Baños
Min. Bid Price: 4,485,000

SAM_LGN152 RSDL LOT
SOUTHPOINT, Cabuyao & Sta. Rosa
(Beside Mapua (Malayan) University)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
180 sqm.	P	419,905
192 sqm.	P	447,898
218 sqm.	P	508,550
240 sqm.	P	559,873
292 sqm.	P	681,178
355 sqm.	P	828,145
374 sqm.	P	872,469
961 sqm.	P	3,880,036

SAM_LGN153 RSDL LOT
LA. 961.00 sqm.
(Near Carmelray Industrial Park)
Montecito Estate, Canlubang, Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P4,084,250

SAM_LGN155 RSDL LOT
LA 874 sqm. (Near San Pablo City Hall)
Mabini Extention, San Lucas I
San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,909,690

SAM_LGN156 COMM'L LOT
LA. 394 sqm. FA 60.42 sqm.
(Across Cabuyao Med. & Nat'l High Sch.)
Limcauco Subd., Brgy III, Cabuyao
Min. Bid Price: P 1,858,180

LA UNION
Text 09064371494

SAM_LAU109 AGRI LOT W/ ROW
LA. 74,694 sqm. (interior lot)
Aringay, La Union
Min. Bid Price: P 3,547,965

SAM_LAU110 AGRI FARM
LA 13,687 sqm FA 1,669 sqm
(near Pugo Elem. Schl.)
Pugo, Bauang
Min. Bid Price: P 5,816,975

SAM_LAU112 RSDL VACANT LOT
LA. 510 sqm. (near Aringay town proper)
San Benito Sur, Aringay
Min. Bid Price: P 255,000

SAM_LAU113 2-STRY.
RSDL/COMM'L BLDG
LA.1,301 sqm. FA. 2,570 sqm.
(near Cristy Anne Apartelle)
Brgy. Tanguie, San Fernando City
Min. Bid Price: P 19,805,553

SAM_LAU117 RSD'L LOT
LA.1,233 sqm.
Dalumpinas, Oeste, San Fernando City
Min. Bid Price: P 616,500

LUCENA

SAM_QP148 RSDL LOT
LA 13, 036 sqm. (near DFA
office,Lucena Proper) Puerto de Mar
Subd. Brgy Ilayang Isabang
Min. Bid Price: P 28,446,691

PAMPANGA

SAM_PAM455 HOUSE & LOT
LA 10,719 sqm. FA. 54 sqm.
Brgy. Tanquican, San Fernando
Min. Bid Price: 18,222,300

PANGASINAN
Text 09154348252

SAM_PSN115 RSDL LOTS W/
2-STRY. RSDL BLDG.
LA.1,530 sqm. FA.395 sqm.
(near San Vicente Elem. School)
Bgy. San Vicente, San Jacinto
Min. Bid Price: P 1,530,000

QUIRINO
Text 09195829178

SAM_ QUI119 RICE LAND
LA 5000 sqm.
(near Gemelina Plantation)
Brgy. Luttuad, Diffun
Min. Bid Price: P 125,000

TARLAC
Text 09175141884

SAM_TAR136 AGRILOT W/ H&L
L.A. 49,713 sqm F.A. 391 sqm.
Bo. Caluluan, Concepcion
Min. Bid Price: P 16,529,573

ZAMBALES

SAM_ZBS461 AGRI LOT
LA. 31,418 sqm.
Nacional Highway Bo. Asinan
Property Subic
Min. Bid Price: P 14,467,538

VISAYAS

BACOLOD
Text 09214488869

SAM_BAC179 2-STRY TOWNHSE
Beverly Homes Townhouses
Sta. Clara Subd.,
(near Robinson/Lopues)

Lot Area	Floor Area	Min. Bid Price
118 sqm.	163 sqm	P 2,000,000
172 sqm.	163 sqm.	P 2,332,000
181 sqm	163 sqm.	P 2,215,400

SAM BAC181 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 400 sqm. FA. 156 sqm.
(near Airport) Brgy. Singcang Airport
Min. Bid Price:P 1,347,260

SAM_BAC184 COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 165 sqm. (near Ceres Terminal)
Narra Ave.
Min. Bid Price:P3,153,936

SAM_BAC185 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,107 sqm (fronting Pahmkoo)
Araneta St., Extension, Brgy. Tangub
Min. Bid Price: P 4,250,000

SAM_BAC186 IND'L LOT
LA. 29,405 sqm. (near CEGASCO)
Pahanoy Mansilingan
Min. Bid Price:P14,702,500

SAM_BAC187 IND'L LOTS
LA. 8,000 sqm. (near CEGASCO)
Pahanocoy Mansilingan
Min. Bid Price:P 6,800,000

SAM_BAC189 RSDL LOT
LA. 446 sqm.(near Police Head Quarters)
Purok Paho 1, Camingawan,
Brgy. Estefania
Min. Bid Price:P947,750

SAM_BAC190 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,460 sqm.
(near Police Head Quirters)
Burgos Ext. Camp Alfredo
Montelibano
Min. Bid Price:P 1,861,500

SAM_BAC191 RSDL LOT W/
2-STRY. RSDL BLDG.
LA. 2,710 sqm. FA. 820 sqm.
(near Robinson's & ABS-CBN)
Gatuslao St., Capitol Subd.,
Min. Bid Price: P 8,567,575

SAM_BAC193 COMM'L LOT
LA. 1,000 sqm.(near Shell Station)
City Heights Subd. Brgy. Taculing
Min. Bid Price:P 6,736,302

SAM_BAC195 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,534 sqm.
(near Police Headquarters)
Handuman Rd., Brgy. Mansilingan
Min. Bid Price: P1,380,000

SAM_BAC196 2-STRY COMML BLDG
LA. 178 sqm FA 326 sqm.
(near Bus Terminal) C-50 Narra Ave.
Capitol Shopping Center
Min. Bid Price: P2,670,000

SAM BAC198 RSDL LOTS
LA. 1,968 sqm. (near Montebello Subd.)
La Herencia Negrense Subd.
Brgy. Mandalagan
Min. Bid Price.P5,826,901

SAM BAC462 COMML TOWNHSE
LA.290 sqm. (near Robinson/Lopues)
Beverly Homes Sta. Clara
Min. Bid Price P4,115,400

CEBU
Text 09266256957

SAM_CBU156 COMM'L LOT W/STALL
LA. 1,700sqm. FA. 12
(near Tabunok Public Market)
Nat'l Highway, Brgy. Tabunok
Min. Bid Price: P 20,613,084

SAM_CBU158 RSD'L LOT
LA. 450 sqm.
(over looking parts of Cebu city)
Aspen St. South Hills Brgy. Tisa
Min. Bid Price: P1,721,250

SAM CBU166 RSD'L LOT
LA. 9,794 sqm.
(w/n Alta Vista Golf & Country Club)
Brgy. Taong Pardo
Min. Bid Price: P6,937,377

SAM_CBU168 OFFICE CONDO
IAU Tower, D. Jakosalem St.,
(near Uptown Area)

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
59 sqm.	P 1,092,000
64.48 sqm.	P 1,343,232
120.81 sqm.	P 1,920,879

SAM CBU171 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,859 sqm. FA.103 sqm.
(near White Beaches of Mactan)
Brgy. Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City
Min. Bid Price:P 3,455,861

SAM_CEB172 RSDL HSE & LOT
LA. 1,748 sqm. FA. 297 sqm.
Brgy. Gun-ob, Lapu-lapu City
Min. Bid Price: P1,660,000

SAM_CBU173 SINGLE STRY
COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 5,659 FA. 324 sqm
(near Lapu-Lapu district Hospital)
Sta. Rosa, Lapu-Lapu City
Min. Bid Price:P4,000,000

SAM_MDE176 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 307 sqm.
(min. Away from Talamban)
Agro-Macro Subdivision,
Bgy. Cabancalan,
Min. Bid Price.P 1,300,000

SAM_CBU463 RSD'L LOT
LA 500sqm.
Primrose Drive,South Hills, Brgy.Tisa
Min. Bid Price: P 1,912,500

SAM_CBU464 RSD'L LOT
LA. 380 sqm.
(min. away from Capitol Site)
Mahogany St. Green Valley Subd.
Min. Bid Price: P 1,615,000

ILOILO
Text 09206186282

SAM_ILO199 RSDL LOT
LA. 240 sqm (near Calaboa Brgy. Hall)
Leganes, Iloilo
Min. Bid Price: P204,000

SAM_ILO200 RSDL LOT
LA. 6,000 sqm
(near Mutual Home Subd.)
Brgy. Ilaya, Zarraga
Min. Bid Price: P2,468,000

SAM_ILO201 RSDL LOT
LA. 495 sqm. (near Cristina Subd.)
Brgy. Cagbang, Oton,
Min. Bid Price:P940,000

SAM_ILO206 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 2,412 sqm. FA. 459 sqm.
(near Alegre small Fishfolks MPC)
Arevalo-Oton Prov. Rd.,
Brgy. Alegre, Oton
Min. Bid Price:P 5,984,531

SAM_ILO207 RSD'L LOT
LA. 114,783 sqm.
(adjacent to Balibagan Brgy. Chapel)
Balibagan-Oeste, Sta. Barbara
Min. Bid Price:P 48,782,775

MINDANAO

CAGAYAN DE ORO
Text 09217388885

SAM_CDO212 RSDL LOT
LA. 2,284.00 (near Angora Market)
Barrio Puntod
Min. Bid Price: P342,600

SAM_CDO215 RSDL LOT
LA. 2,590 sqm. (200 meters away
from Cagayan De Oro Oil Company)
Brgy. Agusan
Min. Bid Price: P777,000

SAM_CDO 216 RSDL LOT
LA. 413 sqm
Ramoncita Velez St.,
Apovel Subd., Bulua District
Min. Bid Price: P935,000

SAM_CDO217 RSDL LOT
LA 765 sqm.
Fairlane Kauswagan
(near City Engineering Office)
Min. Bid Price: P645,000

SAM_CDO220 RSDL LOT
Brgy. Carmen
(near Camp Evangelista)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
600 sqm.	P	262,925
1,409.10 sqm.	P	949,212

SAM_CDO221 AGRI LOT
LA. 28,907 sqm.
(near Women's Dev't Center)
Brgy. Canit-an
Min. Bid Price:P3,685,643

SAM_CDO222 RSDL LOT
LA. 30 sqm
(near Puntod bridge)
Julio Pacana St., Puntod
Min. Bid Price: P114,198

SAM_CDO225 RSDL LOT
LA. 500 sqm.
(back most portion of Agcho drive)
Tibasak, Macasandig
Min. Bid Price: P625,000

SAM CDO227 COMM'L LOT
LA. 442 sqm.(adjacent to Xavier
Univ) Hayes St. Pob.
Min. Bid Price:P4,763,913

SAM_CDO228 COMM'L LOT
Makahambus Street, Brgy. 15,
Poblacion (Near Cosmopolitan
Funeral Homes)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
349 sqm.	P	1,794,000
618 sqm	P	3,177,000

SAM_CDO230 COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 306 sqm. FA. 406 sqm.
(fronting Ma. Reyna Hospital)
Arch. S. Hayes St. Ext.
Brgy. Camaman-an
Min. Bid Price: P3,298,094

SAM_CDO231 AGRI LOT
LA. 47,975 sqm.
(near Catanico Elem. Schl.)
Calinaco, Sinonap Dist.
Min. Bid Price:P4,077,875

SAM_CDO232 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,021 sqm.
(Inside Villa Ernesto Subd.)
Villa Ernesto Subd. Phase 2, Gusa
Min. Bid Price:P743,688

SAM_CDO233 RSDL LOT
LA. 27,929 sqm.
(near Bulabal Elem. Schl.) Balubal
Min. Bid Price:P4,747,930

SAM_CDO236 RSDL LOT
LA. 10,344(near Rosewood Subd.)
Brgy. Camaman-an
Min. Bid Price:P2,635,170

SAM_CDO237 2-STRY HSE & LOT
LA. 1,662 sqm FA. 173 sqm.
(across the property of Oro Rama
Mega Center) Lapasan
Min. Bid Price: P8,310,000

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

SAM_CMP240 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,204 sqm. FA. 505 sqm.
(near Rural Bank) Judge E. Chavez St.
Pob. Nabunturan
Min. Bid Price:P2,433,152

SAM_CMP241 RSDL BLDG.
LA. 300 sqm.
Malasugan-Panag Rd. Brgy. Panag
Bo. Katipunan, New Bataan
Min. Bid Price:P255,000

SAM_CMP244 RSDL LOT
LA. 7,727 sqm.
Panaranda cor. Gen. Ebuen Sts.
Poblacion Monyako
Min. Bid Price P16,419,875

DAVAO
Text 09198209662

SAM_DAV 251 AGRI LOT
LA. 39,366 sqm
(near San Agustin Chapel)
Sitio Ramihan, Toril
Min. Bid Price: P13,089,195

SAM DAV252 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,334 sqm.(near Pilipinas Ave.)
Zamboanga cor. Samal Sts. Insular
Vill.,Pil, Buhangin
Min. Bid Price:P8,087,604

SAM_DAV254 COMM'L LOT
LA. 20,884 sqm.
Nat'l Highway Brgy. Dumoy
Min. Bid Price: P6,205,760

SAM DAV255 COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 157 sqm. (near University Of
Immaculate Concepcion)
Bonifacio St., Sta. Ana Dist.
Min Bid Price: P2,402,100

SAM_DAV256 RSD'L LOT
LA. 300,000 sqm.
Brgy. Baliok Dist. Of Talomo
Min. Bid Price: P56,461,108

SAM_DAV257 RSD' L LOT
LA. 90,473 sqm.
(near Davao Holy Trinity)
Brgy. Road, Brgy., Bago Gallera
Min. Bid Price: P31,665,000

SAM_DAV258 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 18,823 sqm. FA. 122 sqm.
National Highway, Bago Aplaya,
Dumoy, Toril
Min. Bid Price:P31,999,100

SAM DAV261 VARIOUS COMML BLDG
LA. 6,760 sqm FA. 3,944 sqm.
(near Ecoland subd.)
Quimpo Boulevard, Matina
Min. Bid Price: P60,000,000

SAM_DAV263 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 500 sqm.
Diamond St. Nacilla Subd.
Brgy. Ma-a, Talomo
Min. Bid Price:P1,062,500

SAM_DAV269 RSDL LOT
GREEN HEIGHTS. GARDEN VILL.
Buhangin Dist.

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price:
196 sqm.	P	499,800
430 sqm.	P	1,096,500
3,017 sqm.	P	6,924,015
3,204 sqm.	P	7,353,180
6,351 sqm	P	24,236,946

SAM_DAV270 HOUSE & LOT
GREEN HEIGHTS. GARDEN VILL.
Buhangin Dist. (near Club House)

Lot Area	Floor Area	Min. Bid Price
200sqm	217sqm	P 3,689,000
299sqm	217sqm	P 2,766,750

SAM DAV272 COMM'L LOT
LA. 3,209 sqm.
Fil-Japan Friendship Hi-way/Rd Lot 3
GREEN HEIGHTS. GARDEN VILL.
Buhangin Dist.
Min. Bid Price:P8,182,950

SAM_DAV273 COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 7,828 sqm. FA. 8,356 sqm.
(along Diversion Rd.)
Fil-Japan Friendship Hi-way
Green Hts. Garden Vill. Buhangin
Min. Bid Price:P65,577,100

SAM DAV274 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 8,453 sqm. FA. 3,484
(beside Greenheights Subd.)
Zuelig Pharma Bldg. Diversion Rd.
Min. Bid Price:P88,220,800

SAM_DAV285 AGRI LOT
LA. 16,417 sqm.(near Brgy.Hall)
Upper Piedad, Toril Dist.
Min. Bid Price:P14,000,350

SAM_DAV280 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,000 sqm.
Bo. Pampanga
Min. Bid Price: P2,375,000

SAM_DAV281 2-STRY HSE & LOT
LA. 894 sqm. FA. 90 sqm.
(right behind Farmacia Sta. Ana, Matina)
Sto. Niño Community
Min. Bid Price: P2,207,000

SAM_DAV286 RSDL LOT
LA. 2,562 sqm
(near Pilipinosas Subd.)
San Vicente, Panabo
Min. Bid Price: P640,000

SAM_DAV291 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 806 sqm. FA. 216 sqm.
Near Poblacion Brgy. Hall
Elpidio Quirino Ave.Brgy.4 Pob. Dist.
Min. Bid Price: P8,060,000

SAM_DAV292 RSD' L LOT
LA. 4,000 sqm.
National H-way, Bago
Min. Bid Price: P12,394,796

SAM_DAV294 AGRI LOT
LA. 16,044 sqm.(near NIA Rd)
Brgy. Del Pilar, New Corella
Min. Bid Price:P2,045,610

SAM_DAV296 2-STRY HSE & LOT
LA. 600 sqm FA. 81sqm.
(near Alliance Learning Center)
Brgy Road, Poblacion, New Corella
Min. Bid Price: P450,000

SAM_DAV298 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 14,214 sqm. FA. 380 sqm.
(along MATI Nat'l Highway)
Brgy Bagumbayan Lupon
Min. Bid Price:P1,914,996

SAM_DAV299 INDS'L LOT
LA. 94,687 sqm
Brgy. Mahayag, Bunawan District
Min. Bid Price:P224,881,825

SAM DAV301 AGRI LOT
LA. 74,632 sqm.
Brgy. Poblacion
Min. Bid Price:P31,718,600

SAM_DAV303 RSDL LOT
LA. 68,285 sqm
Gulf View Executive Homes, Ph II
Bago Aplaya, Talomo

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
185 sqm.	P	249,750
200 sqm.	P	270,000

SAM_DAV304 3-STRY COMM'L
/OFFICE BLDG
LA 820 sqm F.A. 1,796 sqm.
(near BPI San Pedro)
San Pedro St., Poblacion
Min. Bid Price: P16,000,000

SAM_DAV307 AGRI LOT
LA. 477,481sqm.
Bo. Matina Pangi
Min. Bid Price: P 179,055,375

SAM_DAV465 RSDL TOWNHOUSE
Green Hts. Garden Vill. Buhangin
(near Club House)

Floor Area		Min. Bid Price
280 sqm.	P	4,760,000
748 sqm	P	21,012,000

GENERAL SANTOS
Text 09267666746

SAM GSC311 RSDL BLDG.
LA 500 sqm. FA 95 sqm.
(near Socsargen Country Hospital)
Hicban Rd. Hicban Subd. Lagao
Min. Bid Price:P850,000

SAM GSC312 AGRI LOT
LA 9,621 sqm
Guinto St., w/n Brgy. San Isidro
Min. Bid Price:

SAM_GSC314 COMM'L LOT W/ IMPV'T
LA 7,501 sqm FA 4,697 sqm
(near Tiera Verde Hotel)
Santiago Boulevard, Bario Lagao
Min. Bid Price:P96,759,750

SAM_GSC316 AGRI LOT
LA 18,369 sqm
(Near Tinagacan Proposed Market
Site) Barrio Tinagacan
Min. Bid Price:P2,474,783

SAM_GSC318 RSDL LOT
LA 1,470 sqm.(w/n Roca Subd.)
Brgy. Apupong
Min. Bid Price:P624,750

SAM_GSC319 RSDL LOT
LA 32, 575 sqm.
(near Malakas Satellite Market)
Aparente Avenue Extension, cor
Guinto St., Purok Malakas Lagao.
Min. Bid Price: pls call us

SAM GSC320 RSDL LOT
LA 30,997 sqm.
Barrio Tambler
Min. Bid Price: P10,440,258

SAM_GSC321 RSDL BLDG.
LA 1,034 sqm. FA 246 sqm.
(Near Cambridge Hotel and
Restaurant) Manansala Subd.,
Brgy. San Isidro,
Min. Bid Price:P3,412,450

SAM_GSC322 RSD'L LOT
LA. 360 sqm.
Don Gabriel Subd.Bo. of Tambler
Min. Bid Price: P306,000

SAM_GSC324 COMM'L BLDG.
LA 600 sqm. FA 18 sqm
(front of Phela Grande Convention)
National Highway
Min. Bid Price:P2,550,000

SAM_GSC325 HOUSE & LOT
LA 500 sqm. FA.257 sqm.
Cabe Subd.
Min. Bid Price: P850,000

SAM GSC326 RSDL LOT
LA. 10,304 sqm.,
Bo. Of Tambler (MCU Rd.)
Min. Bid Price:P 2,180,600

SAM_GSC327 RSD'L LOT
LA. 10,000 sqm.
Nat'l Highway Brgy. Sinawal
Min. Bid Price: P3,400,000

SAM_GSC330 RSDL LOT
LA 457 sqm
(near Gen. San City Terminal)
Bulaong Subdv. Dadiangas North
Min. Bid Price:P914,000

SAM_GSC331 RSDL LOT
LA 5,000 sqm
(near Monsanto Hybrid Farm)
Brgy. Rd. Purok 18,Lagao
Min. Bid Price:P4,250,000

SAM GSC332 HOUSE & LOT
LA 598 sqm FA 103 sqm
Bluefin cor. Goldfish Sts.
Espina Subd. Purok Mauswagon,
Brgy. Labangal(near SSS)
Min. Bid Price:P893,775

SAM_GSC334 RSDL LOT
LA 749 sqm(near Pacheco Subd.)
Aquino Subd., Purok Kaunlaran
Brgy. San Isidro
Min. Bid Price:P636,650

SAM_GSC335 COMM'L LOT
LA 274 sqm FA 274 sqm
(Near Notre Dame of Dadiangas
Univ.) National Highway
Min. Bid Price:P3,493,500

SAM_GSC336 RSDL LOT W/ IMPVT
LA 803 sqm FA 78 sqm
Pili Corner J.P. Laurel Street,
Min. Bid Price:P1,537,650

SAM GSC339 RSD'L LOT
LA 778 sqm. (Fronting former
Bayfront Noodle House)P. Acharon
Blvd. cor. Salazar & Veterans Sts.,
Brgy. Dadiangas South,
Min. Bid Price:P11,242,100

SAM_GSC341 COMM'L LOT
LA 1,109 sqm
Calumpang Avenue, Calumpang
Min. Bid Price:P4,092,659

SAM_GSC343 AGRI LOT
LA 20,283 sqm.
Packing One, Slaughter Hose Road,
Min. Bid Price:P1,724,905

SAM GSC344 RSDL LOT
LA 694 sqm
(near Gen.San Cockpit Arena)
National Highway, Bo. of Apupong
Min. Bid Price:P648,890

SAM_GSC345 HOUSE & LOT
LA 389 sqm FA 161 sqm
(near Notre Dame College)
Balagtas Street, Bo. Dadiangas
Min. Bid Price:P1,155,987

SAM_GSC346 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 425 sqm.
Dalandan St., w/n Dadiangas Heights
Min. Bid Price: P745,035

SAM_GSC348 HOUSE & LOT
LA 451 sqm FA 248 sqm
Roxas St.(near SSS)
Min. Bid Price: P7,291,373

SAM GSC350 RSDL LOT W/IMPVT
LA 3,303 sqm FA.830 sqm.
Morales Subd., Bo. Lagao
Min. Bid Price:P4,138,501

SAM_GSC351 HOUSE & LOT
LA 646 sqm FA 194 sqm
Rosas Street
Min. Bid Price:P2,768,875

SAM_GSC352 HOUSE & LOT
LA 476 sqm FA 122 sqm
(near Alphine Subd.)
Avila Subd. Brgy. San Isidro,Lagao
Min. Bid Price:P 641,296

SAM_GSC353 RSDL LOT
LA 76,229 sqm
(Near St. Peter Chapel)
Lanton, Bo. Of Sinawal
Min. Bid Price: P10,270,031

SAM_GSC355 INDS'L LOT
LA 19,683 sqm.
(near MGTK Fishing Industry)
Bo of Tambler
Min. Bid Price:P7,186,827

SAM_GSC356 HOUSE & LOT
LA.598 sqm FA 220 sqm.
(near Eduard Cocolumber)
Purok San Vicente, Espina,
Min. Bid Price:P805,652

SAM_GSC358 RSDL LOT
LA 20,000 sqm.
Bo. of Tambler
Min. Bid Price:P4,250,000

SAM_GSC359 RSD'L LOT
LA 400 sqm(Near Holy Cross Parish)
Catapang Heights Subd. Brgy.
Calumpang
Min. Bid Price:P340,000

SAM_GSC361 HOUSE & LOT
LA 302 sqm FA 70 sqm.
Mangustan St. Brgy. Dadiangas North
Min. Bid Price: P1,220,618

SAM_GSC365 RSDL LOTS
LA 6, 585 sqm FA 1,700 sqm
(Near Iglesia Ni Cristo)
Celcary Subd. Brgy. Bula
Min. Bid Price:P12,078,190

SAM_GSC366 RSDL APARTMENT
LA 199 sqm FA 123 sqm
Purok Bagong Silang Labangal
Min. Bid Price: P422,875

SAM_GSC367 RSDL LOT
Serramar Executive Homes, Conel Rd
Lagao, (near w/n Brgy. Makar)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
4,801 sqm.	P	2,040,000
68, 441 sqm.	P	29,087,425
97,474 sqm.	P	41,246,000

SAM_GSC370 HOUSE & LOT
LA 604 sqm FA 272 sqm
Mangustan St., Brgy. Dadiangas North
Min. Bid Price: P1,882,240

SAM_GSC373 RSDL LOT
LA 11,694 sqm. (Near Shrineville Subd)
Farm Road, Brgy. Lagao,
Min. Bid Price:P2,981,970

SAM_GSC466 IND'L LOT
LA. 16,248 sqm.
Nat'l Highway Calumpang, Brgy. Makar
Min. Bid Price: P41,883,560

SAM_GSC467 IND'L LOT
LA. 13,544 sqm.
Makar-Siguil Rd New Bohol, Calumpang
Min. Bid Price: P18,650,068

SAM_GSC468 COMM'L LOT
LA. 206,346 sqm.
Bo. Lamcanal,Malandag
Min. Bid Price: P7,639,163

KIDAPAWAN
Text 09157470332

SAM_KID374 AGRI LOT
LA 12,474 sqm
Brgy. Paco Kidapawan
Min. Bid Price: P1,060,290

MISAMIS
Text 09217388885

SAM_ MIS469 HOUSE & LOT
LA 11,376 sqm FA 238 sqm
Alubijid, Misamis Oriental
Min. Bid Price: P1,934,260

NORTH COTOBATO
Text 09157470332

SAM_NCT376 AGRI LOT
LA 49, 538 sqm
National Rd , Brgy. Manubuan, Matalam
Min. Bid Price:P3,825,000

SAM_NCT377 RSDL LOT W/ PIGGERY
LA 15,000 sqm FA 1,320 sqm
Brgy. Kalidiuan, Kabacan
Min. Bid Price: 2,550,000

SOUTH COTABATO
Text 09157470332

SAM_SCT378 INDS'L LOT W/
MOTORPOOL
LA 3,000 sqm FA 330 sqm
Ligias Village, Cannery Rd.,
Polomok(near Tropiland Pawnshop)
Min. Bid Price: P2,550,000

SAM_SCT380 RSD'L LOT
LA 1,064 sqm(near Sto.Nino Parish)
M. Roxas Boulevard Extension,
Poblacion, Sto. Niño
Min. Bid Price:P904,400

SAM SCT381 AGRI LOT
LA 8, 640 sqm
Sto. Niño
Min. Bid Price: P1,468,800

SAM_SCT382 RSD'L LOT
LA 13, 477 sqm (near Sto.Nino Nat'l
Town Hall) Poblacion Sto. Niño
Min. Bid Price: P5,727,725

SAM_SCT383 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,651 sqm FA 278 sqm
Bonifacio St., Poblacion Norala
Min. Bid Price:P817,696

SAM_SCT384 HOUSE & LOT
LA 22, 687 sqm FA 176 sqm
(near Bonzo Ricemill)
Bo. Sinsiman, Poblacion Norala
Min. Bid Price: P9,641,975

SAM_SCT385 HOUSE & LOT
LA 340 sqm FA 145 sqm
Poblacion Norala
Min. Bid Price: P 336,786

SAM_SCT386 RSDL LOT W/WRHSE
LA 2, 581 sqm
Poblacion Sto. Niño
Min. Bid Price: 2,193,850

SAM_ SCT387 HOUSE & LOT
LA 798 sqm
Rosal St. Brgy. Pob. Surallah,
Min. Bid Price:831,260

SAM_SCT470 RSD'L LOT
Barrio 8, Koronadal

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
2,128 sqm.	P	904,400
2,701 sqm.	P	1,377,425

SAM_SCT471 RSD'L LOT
LA 1,050 sqm.(near Agan Subd.)
Amurao, Koronadal
Min. Bid Price:P446,250

SAM_SCT472 HOUSE & LOT
LA 409 sqm FA 101 sqm
(near Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital)
H. Depita Subd., Koronadal
Min. Bid Price: P521,475

SAM_SCT473 RSD'L LOT
LA 3, 241 sqm
Barrio 8, Koronadal
Min. Bid Price:P1,377,425

SAM_SCT474 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,073 sqm. FA. 170 sqm.
Purok Sampaguita Pob.Sto. Nino
Min. Bid Price: P4,560,250

SULTAN KUDARAT
Text 09157470332

SAM_SUL396 COMM'L LOT
LA 225 sqm
(near Metrobank Tacurong)
National Highway, Pob. Tacurong
Min. Bid Price: P1,147,500

SAM_SUL397 RSDL LOT
LA 2, 642 sqm.(near Metrobank)
Barrio Dansuli, Isulan
Min. Bid Price: P2,245,700

SAM_ SUL398 AGRI LOT
LA 1,128 sqm.
(near Faustina Chapel)
Bo. Kalawag 1 Extension, Isulan,
Min. Bid Price:P 242,520

SAM_SUL399 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,000 sqm. FA 107 sqm
Brgy. Kalawag 1 Isulan
Min. Bid Price: P1,347,250

SAM_SUL400 COMM'L BLDG.
LA 750 sqm FA 533 sqm
Quirino Ave.,Poblacion, Tacurong City
Min. Bid Price:P5,052,227

SAM SUL401 HOUSE & LOT
Molave cor. Flores Sts. Flores Sts.
(near Esperanza Mun. High Sch.)

Lot Area	Floor Area	Min Bid Price
423sqm	370sqm	P 1,797,750
405sqm	183sqm	P 3,442,500

SAM_SUL402 AGRI LOT
LA 10,161 sqm
(infront of Ezperanza High Schl.)
Molave Ext., Poblacion, Esperanza
Min. Bid Price:P1,368,951

SAM_SUL403 RSDL BLDG
LA 607 sqm FA 114 sqm
Dona Sts. Pob. Esperanza
Min. Bid Price:P998,320

SAM_SUL406 HOUSE & LOT
LA 494 sqm FA 148 sqm
(near RCBC Isulan) Along Municipal
Rd.,Kanlawag III, Isulan,
Min. Bid Price: P4,199,000

TAGUM
Text 09267666746

SAM_TGM411 AGRI LOT
LA 4, 328 sqm
(Near Univ. of Southeastern Phil.)
Brgy. Apokon, Purok V
Min. Bid Price:P1,839,400

SAM_ TGM415 INDS'L LOT
LA 6,000 sqm (Near San Vicente
Ferrer Chapel) Apokon
Min. Bid Price:P4,080,000

SAM_TGM423 RSD'L BLDG.
LA 225 sqm FA 172 sqm
(Near Queen of Apostle Seminary)
Prk. Sampaguita Rd. 1,
Magugpo West
Min. Bid Price:P478,125

SAM TGM426 AGRI RICEMILL
LA 1, 757 sqm.
Purok Pag-asa, Pagsabangan,
Min. Bid Price:P1,493,450

SAM_TGM431 AGRI RAW LAND
LA 23, 441 sqm.
(near UMTagum Coll.)
Visayan Village
Min. Bid Price:P6,973,698

SAM_TGM434 HOUSE & LOT
LA 181 sqm FA 38 sqm.
(Near Apokon Brgy. Hall)
Gemini Village, Apokon
Min. Bid Price:P285,750

SAM_ TGM436 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,000 sqm
Mel Village, Brgy. Visayan Village
Min. Bid Price:P2,407,554

SAM TGM437 COMM'L LOT
Quirante II St. Prk. Lapu-lapu,
Magugpo(near JVC,back of JS
Gaisano)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
3,001sqm	P	25,508,500
1,646sqm	P	6,995,500

SAM_TGM439 RSDL LOT
LA 450 sqm(Near Methodist Church)
Pagsabangan
Min. Bid Price: P573,750

SAM_TGM440 RSD'L LOT
LA 3,000 sqm (New Life Ministryes
Chapel) Purok Orange Valley,
Magugpo South,
Min. Bid Price: P6,375,000

SAM_TGM449 RSD'L LOT
LA 556 sqm (meters away from
Daisay Gante Rd.) Purok Vipalil
Min. Bid Price:P378,080

SAM_TGM450 RSD'L/COMML BLDG
LA 379 sqm FA 514 sqm
Sobrecarey St.
Min. Bid Price:P5,106,117

SAM_TGM455 HOUSE & LOT
LA 7, 456 sqm FA 108 sqm
(near YBC Store)
Domingo Subd., Magugpo Poblacion
Min. Bid Price: P6,337,600

SAM_TGM456 AGRI LOT
LA 3, 627 sqm
(Near Nichols Homes Subd.)
Purok Buli, Visayan Village,
Min. Bid Price: P1,301,180

SAM_TGM460 RSDL LOT
LA 477 sqm.(near DANECO Office)
Briz District, Magugpo East,
Min. Bid Price:P1,013,625

SAM_TGM463 RSD'L LOT
LA 300 sqm.(near Magsanoc Vill.)
Purok Abaca, Brgy. Mankilam
Min. Bid Price:P382,500

SAM_TGM464 RSD'L LOT
LA 250 sqm.
(Near Phil. Benevolent Missionary)
Senagote Village, Magugpo East,
Min. Bid Price:P531,250

SAM TGM469 HOUSE & LOT
LA 259 sqm FA 141 sqm
(Near Brgy. Hall w/n Gemini Village)
Gemini Village,Brgy. Apokon
Min. Bid Price:P405,750

SAM_TGM470 COMM'L BLDG
LA 18, 830 sqm FA 2, 117 sqm
(near First Consolidated Bank)
Pagsabangan Rd., Brgy. Mankilam,
Min. Bid Price: P22,609,859

SAM_TGM476 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 400 sqm. FA. 315 sqm.
(near Visayan Elem. Sch.)
Purok Palmera, Visayan Village
Min. Bid Price:P1,277,203

SAM_TGM477 HOUSE & LOT
Purok Palmera, Visayan Village
(near Visayan Elem. Sch.)

LA	FA	Min. Bid Price
750	400	P1,616,713
1,066	192	P2,265,250
1,405	400	P2,987,750

SAM_TGM481 RSD'L LOT
Visayan Village
(near Visayan Elem. Sch.)

LA.	Min. Bid Price
2,338 sqm.	P4,988,250
7,014sqm.	P5,961,900

SAM_TGM482 AGRI LOT
LA 12, 580 sqm.
(near Clausio Inse,Sicat Cockpit
Arena)
Brgy. Canocotan
Min. Bid Price:P2,138,600

SAM_TGM484 RSD'L LOT
LA 400 sqm
(meters away from Christ the King
Chapel)
Suaybaguio Road, Brgy. La Fortuna,
Min. Bid Price:P431,123

SAM_TGM488 RSD'L LOT
LA 1,512 sqm.
Purok Narra, Visayan Village
Min. Bid Price:P3,213,000

SAM_TGM490 RSD'L LOT
Purok Rambutan, Visayan Village
(meters away from Nichols Home
Subd.)

LA	Min. Bid Price
1,236 sqm.	P2,626,500
1,648sqm	P3,502,000

SAM_TGM492 RSDL LOT
LA 2, 119 sqm.
Purok Malinawon, Magugpo East,
Min. Bid Price: P4,502,875

SAM_TGM493 AGRI LOT
LA. 62,900 sqm.
Brgy. Canocotan (San Isidro)
(near Sicat Cockpit Arena)
Min. Bid Price:P21,386,000

SAM_TGM494 RSDL LOT
LA 4,500 sqm.(near Nichols Homes)
Purok Buli, Visayan Village,
Min. Bid Price:P9,562,500

SAM_TGM495 RSD'L LOT
LA 15,610 sqm
Purok Cacao, Visayan Village
Min. Bid Price: P6,634,250

SAM_TGM497 RSDL LAND W/ IMPVT
LA 24, 022 sqm FA 1, 062 sqm.
Tagum-Kapalong, Provincial Rd.,
Brgy. Pagsabangan
Min. Bid Price: P20,418,700

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More 'action' seen with PSE's short-selling rules

By Daxim L. Lucas

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN THE late 1920s, there has only been one legal way of making money on the local bourse. That is, "buy low and sell high."

As early as next month, however, the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) is set to introduce rules that would turn this dictum on its head, allowing market participants to legally profit from price declines.

The scheme, called short-selling, falls under the PSE's newly approved securities borrowing and lending (SBL) program, and will legalize a practice that has long been the exclusive purview of only the most hardcore of punters.

Short-selling refers to the sale of any security that the seller does not own, or to a sale that will be settled by borrowed securities.

An example of a short-sale occurs when a person sells at a higher price a stock that he does not own. He settles the transaction by buying the same stock at a lower price for delivery to the buyer who earlier bought at a higher price.

The difference between the higher selling price and the lower buying price represents the profit of the short-seller.

Lingering concerns

There are, however, lingering concerns about introducing a system that would actually help traders depress market prices on the stock exchange. After all, the broad sentiment continues to favor a strong market, and anyone seen going against the market is often viewed as a "party pooper" or "killjoy."

Critics also point to the fact that one of the biggest scandals to hit the PSE—the collapse of then market darling BW Resources Corp.—was directly attributable to massive short-selling activities by a few brokers, which caused widespread market panic.

Lingering concerns

"It is difficult enough to push the market up, without having to contend with people who want to push stock prices down," said one trader, when asked about his views on short-selling.

Not wanting to be identified contradicting official policy, the trader said there were lingering concerns that unscrupulous market players could use the scheme to profit from bad news, or worse, spread false rumors about listed firms and profit from the market's adverse reaction.

Indeed, the idea of legalized short-selling has taken a long time to catch on in the Philippines.

One of the earliest ideas for SBL was put forward in a proposal by the Investment Houses Association of the Philippines in the mid-1990s, originally meant to help holders of government and corporate bonds profit from their idle securities, by lending them out to short-sellers while waiting for them to mature.

Unresolved taxation issues prevented the idea from taking off, however, until recently, when a broader lobby from capital market advocates helped convince the government to exempt SBL transactions from taxes.

"Overall, this would be good for the market," said CitisecOnline president Conrado Bate in an interview.

He pointed out that allowing investors to make money from price declines in addition to price appreciation would help lift the PSE to the ranks of the more advanced bourses in the region.

"The ability to profit from declining prices is one of the hallmarks of a mature market," he said.

Bate's views are echoed by PSE president Francis Lim, who has long pushed for the introduction of short-selling on the bourse.

In an interview, Lim explained that the practice of short-selling provides an effective vent, which prevents the creation of asset price bubbles—which can explode with dramatic effects on the financial markets.

Short-selling, he said, would allow investors to bet against stocks which they believe are overvalued, helping temper their stock prices or pushing them down to more realistic levels.

Lim added that the introduction of short-selling would increase trading volumes on the PSE—a situation which would contribute directly to the bourse coffers.

"With short-selling, people would now be able to trade in both directions," he said.

Taking their time

Despite the promise it holds, corporate regulators have taken their time approving the scheme.

In an interview, Securities and Exchange Commission chair Fe Barin said regulators wanted to make sure that unsophisticated investors are not prejudiced by the introduction of a product meant only for the most savvy market players.

"We wanted to make sure that all the safeguards are in place," she said.

Among the limitations that would initially be imposed on short-selling is the so-called "uptick rule"—adopted from the practice in the New York Stock Exchange—where a stock can only be sold short on a price uptick.

This prevents a short-seller from aggravating stock price declines by dumping massive amounts of shares on the market.

At the same time, short-selling will initially be limited to companies that are capitalized at P10 billion or more, and those blue chips that are highly liquid.

This means that only the stocks which are most immune to price manipulation would initially be open to shorting.

"With the short-selling rules in place, investors may make money, or they can protect their investments, even when our market is retreating," Lim said. "With this, the market will be more active."

So far, all stakeholders are crossing their fingers.

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Fisheries sector growth on track despite drought

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE expects the fisheries sector to meet its production target this year despite the adverse effects of a prolonged dry spell.

In a report to Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources said the effect of the drought in Luzon would likely be limited to *tilapia* production.

BFAR director Malcolm Sarmiento projected the potential loss to reach 45,743 metric tons of freshwater *tilapia*, representing less than one percent of the total production target for 2007.

Actual production of the aquaculture, commercial and municipal fisheries sectors reached 1.167 million metric tons in the first quarter and 1.495 million metric tons in the second quarter.

Total production for the third quarter is expected to hit 1.494 million metric tons, while the last quarter production is seen at 998,544 metric tons.

Sarmiento said actual production in the first semester and projected growth in the second half will bring total yields in the fisheries sector to the target this year of five million metric tons.

He noted that the potential loss of 45,743 metric tons of freshwater *tilapia* can be offset by opening up mariculture parks as production sites for cultured *tilapia* in nondrought areas.

"There is a need to produce more saline-tolerant tilapia fingerlings to enhance culture and production in mariculture parks," Sarmiento said.

The Philippines is currently the eighth largest fish-producing country with total production at 4.16 million MT.

This represents 2.8 percent of the total world production of 146.27 million metric tons, according to data from the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Chemrez develops resin

By Abigail L. Ho

IN A BID TO LOWER COSTS and environment and health hazards associated with fiberglass production, listed firm Chemrez Technologies Inc. has developed a water-based polyester resin, which the company claims is the first of its kind in the world.

ChemrezTech chief operating officer Dean Lao Jr. said the product, called Polycol-Aqua, could be used to laminate and strengthen fiberglass structures such as water tanks and car body panels.

Instead of using the solvent styrene to make the polyester resin penetrate fiberglass materials, he said, Polycol-Aqua could be diluted in water.

This, he said, was a huge advantage as styrene was highly combustible and produces strong fumes.

He said ChemrezTech planned to export the product, adding that the company was now qualifying agents and distributors to market Polycol-Aqua and its other specialty resins to overseas customers.

Initial target markets for the product, he said, were countries in Southeast Asia and Indochina.

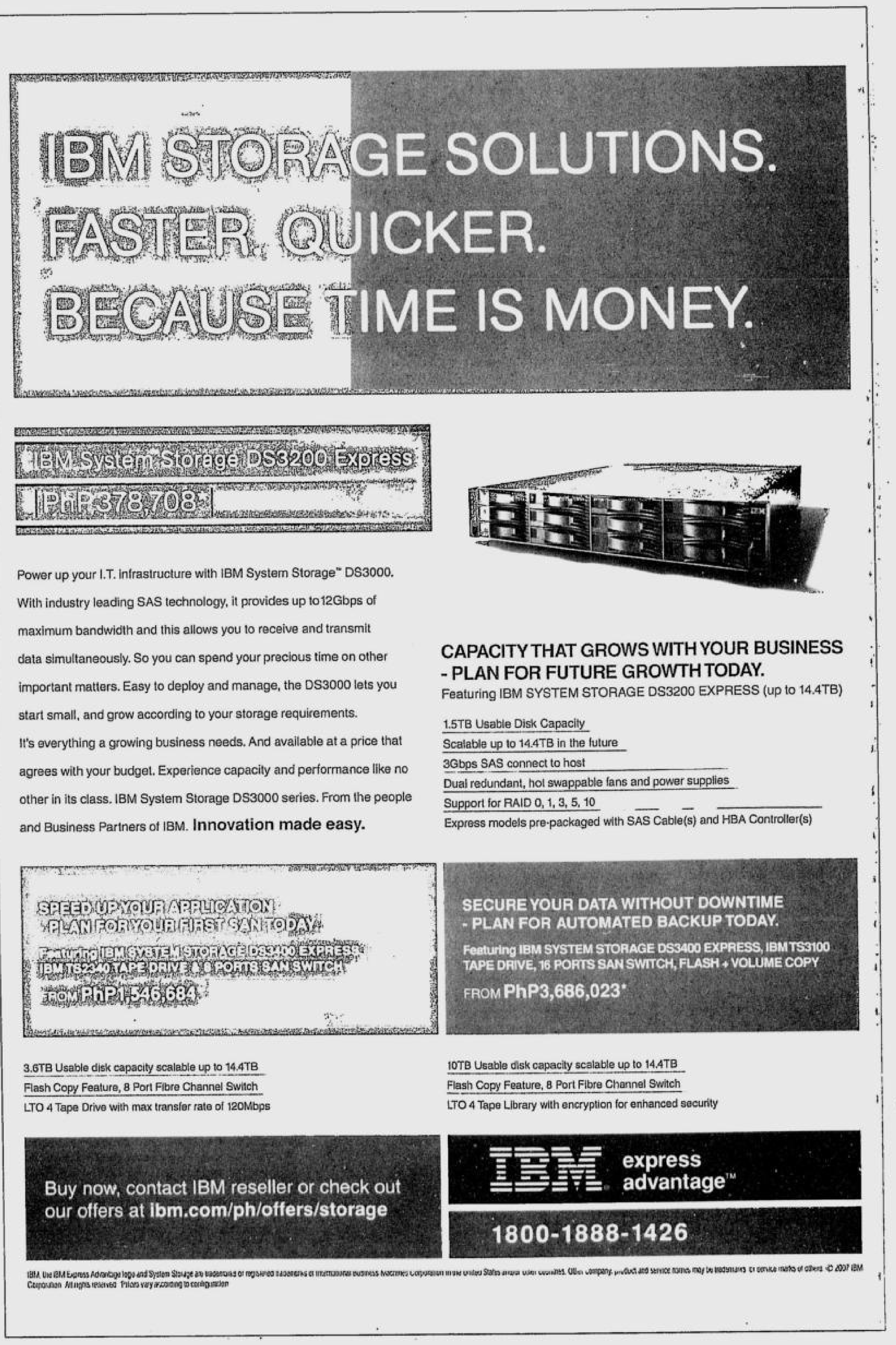
No free lunch

From page B5

Not so for the Chinese. Not only do they require Chinese suppliers and contractors; the Chinese government even chooses which ones to deal with (as with ZTE in the NBN project). Thus, even the choice of supplier becomes the subject of a government-to-government agreement that leaves no room for the loan recipient to seek better value even within the limited choices among possible Chinese firms.

On the more sinister side is the perception that the Chinese are more willing to play along with or tolerate payoffs to government officials in return for bagging major projects. The current outcry over the NBN project centers on such alleged overpricing to accommodate massive kickbacks for certain officials. In the end, we need to ask ourselves whether these ubiquitous Chinese loans are truly good for us—or whether they are leading us into a trap that we would all be better off steering away from.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu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SPaCE offers solution to job mismatch

A PROBLEM THAT MOST COMPANIES encounter when hiring people for certain jobs is that applicants do not have the skills or competency required for the jobs as these are completely different from what graduates have studied in college.

Companies or the applicants themselves can address this problem of job mismatch by enrolling in short-term courses which will mold them into efficient and competent professionals.

The De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde's School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPaCE) offers post-baccalaureate diploma programs to address this problem of inadequacy. The specific subject areas are designed for individuals who already have a college degree but who want to learn a new skill or strengthen their competency in their field of work, and get promoted.

The SPaCE programs are designed by industry experts who customize the curriculum to suit the needs of the course participants. Best practices in each field of study and the latest trends and development are also incorporated into the programs.

The curriculum emphasizes hands-on case studies and workshops so there is immediate takeaway value for the participants. What is learned today can be immediately applied in the workplace tomorrow.

Students can enjoy maximum schedule flexibility with these SPaCE programs as these are six modules which can be finished in a year. Each module usually runs for six sessions or 42 class hours. Sessions are held every Saturday from 12:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Currently, SPaCE has ten diploma programs in various business disciplines and will open on Sep. 15. These are in the fields of: Human Resource, Organization Development, Training Development, Professional Events Management, Strategic Marketing, Marketing Communications, Retail and Franchise, Restaurant and Food Entrepreneurship, Real Estate, and Purchasing and Supply Chain Management.

Interested participants can inquire by calling 400-5425, or e-mailing space@dls-csb.edu.ph. They can also log on to the SPaCE website at www.dls-csb.edu.ph/space.

AIM CONDUCTS DEVELOPMENT COURSE FOR SUDANESE OFFICIALS

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recently enlisted the help of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) in the Philippines to conduct an immersive two-week development management program specially designed for governance and strategic management needs of Sudan. 'Our objective is to help the Sudanese officials to address the present conflict in their country and develop institution and capacity-building initiatives so that Sudan can move forward as one nation,' said professor Mario Antonio Lopez, associate dean of the AIM Center for Development Management.

UP study cites economics of travel time on NLEX

PEOPLE EITHER MAINTAIN OR ENHANCE their capacity to earn if they can reach their destinations on time, or earlier.

Conversely, they become less productive in varying degrees while held up in traffic owing to poor road conditions or traffic jams. For private car owners, as well as operators of passenger buses and jeepneys and cargo trucks, prolonged travel time translates into higher vehicle operating cost and more fuel consumption.

A study conducted recently by a team of academicians called UP-Planades, (an acronym for UP-Planning and Development Research Foundation Inc) essayed on the economics of travel using as specimens the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) that offers "seamless travel" and the nearby MacArthur National Road (MNR).

The research team, headed by UP dean Primitivo Cal, used as benchmarks data culled from a series of test drives on both highways running parallel across Central Luzon. The MNR is commonly considered as an alternative to the NLEX.

"If motorists choose to travel on MNR instead of the NLEX, they would incur additional expenses in vehicle operating cost in the amount of P257 per car. In addition, they would incur a penalty of about P800 due to higher travel time," the research document stated.

Since travel time along the MNR is generally four times longer than on the NLEX, it was estimated that passengers of a large bus collectively lose a total of P3,120 per trip, it added.

The study team has also estimated an average increase of about 30 kph of vehicular speed along the NLEX compared to data on the North Diversion Road (former name of NLEX).

"This increase in speed has positive impact on the various road users of NLEX," the study said.

It explained that every car user enjoys savings of about P350 over the entire 84-km length of the NLEX. "This amount is significantly higher than the toll fee increase of P120," the team pointed out.

On the other hand, large bus operators enjoy much bigger savings of P1,040 per trip. "The (bus) operator therefore, would be well justified should he pass on part of the toll fee increase to bus passengers."

Two-axle truck operators generate savings of about P70 per trip, mainly due to the reduced travel time. "The saving enjoyed by truck operators is modest because the NLEX improvement allows trucks to run at speeds above optimum with the consequence of higher direct operating cost, including fuel consumption," the team explained.

The study was commissioned by the MNTC to determine the impacts of the NLEX improvements on such factors as road user cost, road safety and land use and value changes.

Road user cost consisted of basic vehicle operating cost (BVOC) and travel time cost. The BVOC components that were considered included fuel, lubricating oil, tires, spare parts, maintenance labor, capital, crew (for commercial vehicles) and overhead (based on Department of Public Works and Highways 2006 unit values).

Monetary value was attached to travel time on the theory that time spent traveling results in benefits or income from other foregone productive activities.

Travel time and delay surveys were conducted with six runs along NLEX, three runs along the MNR, and three runs along laterals connecting both roads. These survey runs were made for both northbound and southbound directions, and done on a typical weekday covering the morning, noon and afternoon peak periods.

Travel speeds along the NLEX prior to the improvements were drawn from previous studies, while detailed road condition inventory for the MNR was conducted based on pavement condition, width and other geometric conditions that affect traffic flow and vehicle operating cost.

A TRUE BLOODED RAHA

August is Rotary Membership Month. Senator Gregorio B. Honasan officially joined in the roster of elite members of the Rotary Club of Raha Sulayman-Manila, the 3rd oldest club in Manila. The Senator best exemplifies the rotary motto, 'Service Above Self'. Pinning the official club pin to Senator Honasan is RCRSM Sharing club president Jonathan 'Jon' Teng. RCRSM has been in the forefront of community service for 33 years. 'Continuing a Legend, Innovating a Legacy' is the battlecry theme of Jon this year for the club. With the addition of Honasan to the club, the club is certain to 'innovate something for the future generations' as its services goes nationwide.

EXPERIENCE BIGEN'S SILK TOUCH

Hoyu Co Ltd, Japan's leading hair color maker, recently gave free hair color applications to lucky customers at the Robinsons Galleria to thank Filipino customers for more than 50 years of continued patronage. Aside from the hair coloring, customers who availed themselves of the Bigen Silk Touch also had the chance to win prizes such as 6 boxes of Bigen Silk Touch, gift certificates, bags and compact mirrors. Bigen Silk Touch is Hoyu's premier hair color for fashionable Filipinas. Hoyu also organized a special exhibit on oriental hair to increase awareness on hair properties and care. Hoyu will be bringing the event to Robinsons Manila from Sep. 12 to 16. Catch the Bigen Silk Touch exhibit ongoing at SM Makati until Sep. 10, and at SM North Edsa from Oct. 18 to 24. Shown are, at left, Yoshiki Fukami, product manager, Asia business division, Hoyu Co Ltd, and Art Andres, management supervisor, Asatsu-DK during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

UP-PGH pediatrics course

THE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS, Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines, in cooperation with the CHILD Foundation Inc, will hold its 2007 Postgraduate Course titled "Subspecialty Alerts in General Pediatrics" on Sep. 12 and 13 at the Century Park Hotel, Manila. The postgraduate course aims to empower pediatricians and general practitioners the ability to recognize and handle initial management problems that may need subspecialty referral. For inquiries, call Dr. Carmina Geraldine M. Castro, postgraduate course coordinator, or Merla Ramirez, executive assistant, at 524-0892 or 521-8450 local 2101 or 2107.

Antel Spa boosts FSRS expertise

PROVIDING PREMIUM HOTEL services require infrastructure, and systems that match the skill and experience honed by years of leadership in the hotel and resort trade is a task that most strive but only a few really achieve. Such was achieved when Antel Land Holdings Inc combined its Full-Service Residential Suites (FSRS) concept with the premier management savvy of Genesis Hotels & Resorts Corp (Genesis) in the fast-rising Antel Spa Residences.

FSRS is a revolutionary concept pioneered by Antel Land Holdings Inc in 2005 that sought to provide true hotel facilities and services in a residential condominium at the onset, a big departure from the traditional hybrid condotel and apartelle-style buildings, wherein the hotel services are just merely add-ons to the existing structures.

Antel's approach gave birth to a new category and will soon serve as the benchmark for future residential towers in the country, spearheaded by Antel Spa Residences and its predecessor The A. Venue Residences.

Both well-respected leaders in their fields of expertise, the partnership of Antel Land Holdings-the pioneer of the FSRS concept-and Genesis Hotels, a wholly Filipino-owned company with 30 solid years of experience in the hotel and resort management in the country and overseas-is a perfect alliance that is set to change the monotonous hotel business landscape into a more dynamic and profitable experience.

"With tourism in the country growing by 4.46 percent since last year and the urgent need to service the shortage of hotel accommodation for below $100, Antel Spa Residences' bold entry into the market is a timely and strategic move since the lifestyle tower's tourist-friendly FSRS amenities will greatly aid us in implementing our proven management style and expertise," said Genesis president Miguel Cerqueda.

According to him, FSRS fully complements the tried and tested model employed by Genesis in providing the 5-star services to clients.

"With FSRS, Genesis not only has the people, expertise and contacts but also the facilities and systems-the key ingredients for successful hotel and resort operations at par with other 5-star hotels in the Makati district, even better," Cerqueda said.

"Through this revolutionary model, Antel Spa Residences, together with the A. Venue Hotel and Residences, will showcase the comfort of a residential condo and the indispensable luxuries offered by hotels," said Antel director for sales Miguel Gascon.

He added that under the reputable hands of Genesis, Antel Spa Residences promises to deliver only the best standard of services, as those being carried out in Astoria Plaza in Pasig City, The Pearl Manila Hotel, and Casa del Mar Golf & Dive Resort in Cebu-an elite circle of deluxe hotels under the roster of Genesis Hotels. Thus, introducing the concept of "lifestyle hotels" as distinctly handled by Genesis-managed properties is always associated with the concept of perfect hospitality havens of rest and recreation, personalized service, and world-class amenities.

Antel Spa Residences is set to stand within the 1.7-hectare domain of Antel Lifestyle City. It will offer full hotel services and features at the onset, with complete and master-planned "back-of-the-house" facilities, storage, warehousing, offices, manpower support, concierge, and laundry, which further the total pampering experience.

The fast-rising tower will also offer special services that will promote a "wholistic" healthy lifestyle to its future residence, including a wide range of spa and wellness facilities; a Wellness Academy; nature trail; meditative sanctuary; private spa and massage centers; sauna baths; resort spa and kiddie pool; a sky infinity pool and lounge; and a commercial area for organic restaurants and market, beauty and medical clinics, and wellness shops.

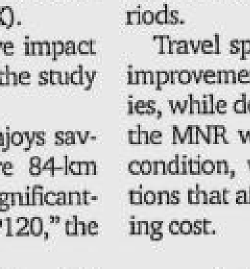
For inquiries about the new Antel Spa Residences, call 896-8888 or log on to www.antel.com.ph. Interested parties may also visit The Antel Venue Lounge at 5343 Gen. Luna Street corner Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Aging gracefully with diabetes

OURS IS AN AGING WORLD. AN ESTIMATED 600 million people over the age of 60 are living all over the globe. This number is projected to reach 2 billion in year 2050.

In the Philippines, data from the 2000 Census of Population and Housing reveal that 5.97 percent or 4.6 million Filipinos are aged 60 and above.

Advancing age, along with genetics and excess weight, is one of the risk factors for developing type 2 diabetes. All over the world, approximately eight percent of people over age 65 have diabetes.



"Folks over 65 years of age are nearly 10 times more likely to develop diabetes than those aged 20 to 40," said Dr. Joy C. Fontanilla, editor-in-chief of DiabetEASE magazine.

The August-September issue of DiabetEASE tackles relevant issues for the elderly with diabetes. The cover story focuses on how to grow old gracefully with diabetes and offers tips from experts on how to deal with the disease. The issue also contains articles on how to deal with dizzy spells, how to overcome an overactive bladder, as well as general day-to-day tips for the elderly with diabetes.

Experts also answer questions on how to prevent low blood sugar attacks at night; and what vitamin supplements can be good for elderly diabetics. Endocrinologist Dr. Herbert Ho writes an article on everything one needs to know about cholesterol medications; while rehabilitation specialist Dr. Teresita Joy Evangelista gives exercise tips for wheelchair users. Other features include recipes for denture wearers, healthy soup recipes, and understanding food labels.

Gracing the cover is top diabetes doctor Augusto D. Litonjua, known in the medical world as the "Father of Philippine Endocrinology". The issue also features ballroom dancing champ Ednah Ledesma as she talks about ballroom dancing as a stress buster.

Aside from these articles, DiabetEASE is also packed with the latest news and trends about diabetes and diabetes care. DiabetEASE is a bi-monthly glossy magazine for people with diabetes, their families and the public in general.

DiabetEASE magazine is available in all National Bookstore outlets nationwide. For subscription inquiries, call 892-0723 to 24.

St. Luke's Residency Programs open to applicants

ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER, THE FIRST hospital in the Philippines to be accredited by the Joint Commission International, is now accepting doctor applicants for its Residency Training Program. The entrance examination will be on Sep. 14 at Auditorium 1, 14/F Cathedral Heights Building, St. Luke's Medical Center. Applicants are required to submit documents to the graduate medical education office on or before Sep. 12. They are also reminded to bring all original documents and to prepare P500 application fee. Call 723-0101/0301 local 4300.

HERITAGE HOTEL'S MALAYSIAN FOOD PROMO ONGOING UNTIL SEP. 12

Ambassador Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi, Embassy of Malaysia and Eddie Yeo, general manager, The Heritage Hotel Manila, recently spearheaded the ribbon-cutting ceremonies of 'Golden Marvels of Malaysian Kitchen,' a Malaysian food promotion ongoing until Sep. 12, for lunch/dinner at Riviera Café featuring Chef Razali and Chef Ali from Grand Millennium Kuala Lumpur flown in courtesy of Cebu Pacific Air. Witnessing the ceremony were: Candice Iyog, marketing head, Cebu Pacific Air (left); Angel Asi, sales manager, THHM (2nd from left); Eva Carmona, marketing manager, Tourism Malaysia (4th from left); Gibeth Gloria, food and beverage manager, THHM (3rd from right); and Norielle Roldan, director of sales and marketing, THHM (right).

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Sleeker, edgier Razr hits the road

By Abigail L. Ho

WHEN AMERican handset manufacturer Motorola came out with its thin clamshell Razr model more than two years ago, the competition didn't know what hit them.

Although the Razr model was initially positioned as an exclusive fashion phone, Motorola eventually placed it on the mass market in the mid-priced segment, cementing its position on the mobile phone map as the world's second largest vendor.

The Razr model also reintroduced the clamshell design as fashionable and funky, reminiscent of days of yore when Motorola released the StarTac model—touted as the world's first full clamshell phone—in an age of candybar phones that were just taking baby steps toward the digital revolution.

To this day, Motorola Philippines mobile business unit marketing head Mari Litonjua said the Razr model, in its different incarnations and updates, remained the company's bestseller.

In a bid to maintain its hold on the No. 2 position, both globally and in the Philippines, Motorola has launched the Razr2 V8, a sleeker and more feature-packed version of the original thin clamshell.

"It's really more of an image phone, although it also has some added features that weren't there in the Razr models from before," he said. "We're going more for the 'influencers'—for people who go for gadgets that they really want to be seen using rather than individuals who look solely for features."

Unlike its predecessor, the Razr2 V8 has a sleeker glass-metal finish and a larger external screen that boasts richer, more vibrant colors. It also has a smart key feature that allows users to answer text messages, using pre-programmed messages, even when the clamshell is not open.

For music lovers, the phone has a touchscreen feature that enables users to control their sound trip without having to flip open the handset more than once after starting the music player.

On-board memory has also been significantly expanded to 512MB, from the previous Razr models' 64MB.

The first generation Razr2 model, however, is limited to its internal memory capacity as it does not have an expansion slot for added memory.

Litonjua said memory capacity on later Razr2 models would be expandable to up to 2GB.

"The phone looks good and it has new features, too," he said. "I believe it's really not anymore a competition of features, but a matter of personalization. People nowadays want to be individuals. They don't want to be common."

He said this individualistic spirit was exactly what Motorola was targeting with the Razr2 V8.

"We don't follow trends. We make the trends," he said.

On a more global scale, Motorola is banking on the Razr2 and other upcoming handset models to regain the market share that it lost during the second quarter.

According to research firm IDC, 'Motorola's second quarter market share shrank to 13 percent from 22.1 percent in the same period last year.

Here in the Philippines, Litonjua said the handset manufacturer remained a strong No. 2, behind the still undisputed leader Nokia.

To push sales of the Razr2 V8, he said the company would be investing heavily on advertising and promotion, as well as in putting up more concept stores in strategic parts of the country.

THE RAZR2 V8 from Motorola comes to its own as an image phone

Symantec launches new Norton for Windows

By Riza T. Olchondra

MOST PC USERS STORE SENsitive data in their computers, but there are many who fail to back up their files, said Symantec Corp.

"According to our research, 91 percent of consumers are storing personal data on their PCs, but we also found that 43 percent of consumers do not back up their data," vice-president for consumer products Rowan Trollope said.

To encourage data backup among clients, Symantec said it has released upgraded software to make backing up more convenient.

The releases are the Norton Save and Restore 2.0 and Norton Ghost 12.0 for Windows Vista and Windows XP users.

The latest version of Norton Save & Restore preserves important data such as digital photos, MP3s and financial-related documents. For advanced users, Norton Ghost 12.0 further leverages Symantec's Backup Exec System Recovery solution for businesses to create Norton's fastest, most advanced personal backup and recovery tool to date.

"Our latest version of Norton Save and Restore is the most consumer and digital-friendly backup solution in the market today," Trollope said. "With more setup wizards, an improved interface and flexible backup options, users can get peace of mind knowing their data is safe and secure."

With enhanced browsing within recovery points, Norton Save and Restore enables users to fully recover or to quickly search for and recover specific lost or damaged files or folders.

Norton Ghost 12 takes data and system protection to the next level with powerful new features such as remote management, Google Desktop integration, and LightsOut Restore. Support for one-to-one remote management enables users to back up other Norton Ghost clients on the network. Integration with Google Desktop allows users to create searchable backup indexes to make recovering data even faster.

Both Norton Save & Restore 2.0 and Norton Ghost 12 are now available for purchase from various Symantec retail stores, the Symantec online store at www.symantecstore.com/ph, as well as other online retailers. Norton Save & Restore 2.0 and Norton Ghost are priced at P2,349 and P 3,619 respectively.

Users do more than call on their mobile phones

By Tina G. Santos

SINGAPORE—MOBILE PHONES have become more than just devices for making voice calls and sending text messages.

Citing a recent Nokia study, an executive of the mobile phone giant said at least 76 percent of users listen to music, 64 percent take photos, 54 percent play games and 48 percent browse the Internet.

"More and more people [are using] the multimedia functionality [of] their mobile phone units," said Illka Raiskinen, SVP for Multimedia Experiences, Nokia Multimedia. "They're never satisfied. They keep looking for new innovations and more interesting features on their mobile phones."

As if to highlight this point, Nokia has unveiled four well-designed mobile devices—the Nokia 5310 XpressMusic, the Nokia 5610 XpressMusic, the Nokia N81 and the new Nokia N95 Black Edition—specifically optimized for entertainment, music and games.

"These new entertainment-enabled devices are for consumers who want their music, games and favorite media with them wherever they go," added Urpo Karjalainen, Nokia's senior vice president for customer and market operations in the Asia Pacific, during the recent product launch here dubbed "Nokia Go Play."

Expected to be available during the fourth quarter of the year, each device offers dedicated music or gaming keys, expanded memory, large screens and extended battery performance to provide quick and easy access to entertainment content.

The Nokia 5310 XpressMusic is the newest music phone. It is the company's latest addition to its ultra slim line of products.

Although small in size—9.9 mm thick and weighing less than 71 grams so it fits comfortably in a pocket or purse—the Nokia 5310 XpressMusic is considered a mini music powerhouse as it offers up to 18 hours of music playback, memory for up to 3,000 songs on an optional 4GB microSD card and dedicated keys that makes listening to music a breeze.

Available in red and blue, the new phone model has a 2-megapixel camera and a bright 2-inch screen.

The Nokia 5610 XpressMusic is also a music phone that features an integrated hardware slider button for ease of use in browsing through playlists. It offers crystal clear sound and up to 22 hours of music playback and memory with capacity for 3,000 songs on an optional 4GB microSD card.

But more than just a phone and music player, the Nokia 5610 XpressMusic features high-quality 3.2 megapixel camera with autofocus and dual LED flash.

Another upcoming product is the Nokia N81, which is the new top of the line music phone that features a new user interface and a walloping 8GB of memory. With dedicated music and gaming keys, a 3.5 mm headphone connector and 3G and WLAN connectivity, the Nokia N81 multimedia computer is a true mobile entertainment powerhouse.

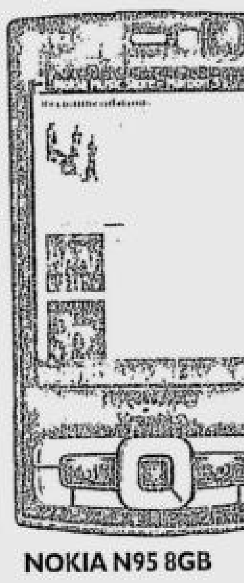
It is configured to find, buy, manage and play music and games purchased from the Nokia's new Internet services, including the Nokia Music Store and N-Gage.

The Nokia N81 comes in two versions: the Nokia N81 8GB with internal 8GB flash memory, and the Nokia N81 with expandable memory.

Then, there's the black edition Nokia N95 8GB, an improvement of its previous model.

With all the key features of its predecessor, including a 5 megapixel camera, the Nokia N95 8GB now houses 8GB of memory. It also boasts a better battery life and a bigger 2.8 inch screen—the largest ever for a multimedia computer.

"Nokia is no longer just a voice company," executives stressed, adding that the new phone models offer content that would be more relevant to them. "And those are certainly in the area of entertainment and games."



NOKIA N95 8GB

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IBM SYSTEM x3400
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IBM SYSTEM x3650
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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
PhilHealth Regional Office III
PhilHealth Bldg., Lazatin Blvd., San Agustin, City of San Fernando
Healthline (046) 963-7148 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB No. III-07-003

PhilHealth Regional Office III (PRO III), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites all duly registered Janitorial Services firms to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	: Procurement of Janitorial and Other Related Services
Location	: PhilHealth Bldg., Lazatin Blvd., City of San Fernando
Brief Description	: 20 utility personnel for PRO III and its service offices
Approved Budget for the Contract	: Php 2,849,000.00
Contract Duration	: One (1) year
Delivery Period	: Within 15 days after issuance of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 10 to 24, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	September 24, 2007 at 1:30 PM
3. Opening of Bids	October 08, 2007 at 1:30 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	October 09 to 24, 2007
5. Post-Qualification	October 25 to November 02, 2007
6. Notice of Award	November 16, 2007

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,800.00 to the Cashier of PRO III.

(Sgd.) **PRISCILLA G. ASUNCION**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - September 10, 2007)

San Rafael Fiesta 2007

THE SAN RAFAEL VILLAREAL Samar Foundation Inc will hold its annual fiesta celebration and jubilee luncheon with ballroom dancing on Oct. 7, 9 a.m. at Kowloon House, 20 Matalino Street, Diliman, Quezon City.

The management of the association, in cooperation with Hermanos and Hermanas 2007 as sponsors, invite natives of San Rafael, Villareal, Samar, guests and friends to attend the fiesta which is being held annually every 1st Sunday of October in honor of its patron, Saint Raphael Archangel.

For further information and queries, call the secretariat and look for Cayetana Hernandez Adona at 563-2953, Pelito Abelgas Quintos at 656-9923, 655-7323 and Norberto Aniano Sacendoncillo at 295-4625, 669-1478, 0918 9108063, email norbert_taipan@yahoo.com or write to Block 15 Lot 32-B Road 9, Barangay San Isidro, Arveemar Homes, Angono, Rizal.

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFICATION AND SEALED BIDDING

The Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORSAMELCO) has received a subsidy from the National Electrification Administration (NEA). The proceed of subsidy is for construction of the line under the Rural Electrification Program.

Interested parties are hereby invited to a Pre-Qualification and sealed Bidding for supply or hereunder mention project:

Project : Construction of distribution line for 17 barangays under AWP'07
Location : NORSAMELCO Coverage area
Contract : Supply of Materials and Labor
Amount : Php21.8M

PACKAGE	DESCRIPTION	
1	Supply of labor and materials for 17 Barangays	1 lot

Bid forms will be issued after passing of Eligibility to Bid and upon payment of Seven Thousand Pesos *(Php7,000.00)* non-refundable before Pre-bid Conference.

Acceptance of letter of Intent	18-Sept-07
Receipt of Eligibility requirements	Sept. 19-Sept. 25, 2007
Issuance of Eligibility to Bid	Sept. 20-Oct. 02, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference	Oct. 11, 2007 @ 2:00 PM
Documents Opening of Sealed bid	October 25, 2007 @ 10:00 PM

Only qualified bidders who passed during the pre-qualified screening will be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bid proposals must be accompanied by Bid security equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in an acceptable form.

The PBAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility check / screening as well as the preliminary examination of Bids. The PBAC will conduct post qualification of the lowest bid.

NORSAMELCO hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein, and to accept such bids as may be deemed advantageous to **NORSAMELCO.**

For further information, please contact the following nos. 09173042867 / 09173042869 / Telefax 055-2518163

(Sgd.) **NILO A. ESTOPA**
Chairman

(Sgd.) **SALVADOR G. HERNANDEZ**
General Manager

(PDI–Sept. 10 & 14, 2007)

Canon launches photo contest

CANON MARKETING (PHILIPPINES) INC CALLS ON ALL amateur and professional Canon digital camera owners and users to join Canon's "Smile 7107", a photo competition that aims to showcase the best and distinct Filipino images taken in and around the Philippine archipelago. This activity will likewise provide a venue to showcase exemplary photos from Canon photographers and to assist in the promotion of the beauty of the Philippines.

Aptly named after the Philippines 7,107 islands, "Smile 7107" will have 10 themes, where participants can submit a maximum of one entry per theme.

Entry forms and information can be requested at the Canon head office at Marvin Plaza Building, or downloaded from www.canon.com.ph (What's Hot Section), the Club EOS website www.canon.com.ph/clubeos, the Digital Photographer Philippines' forum (http://www.digitalphotographer.com.ph), or via e-mail request from SMILE7107@canon.com.ph.

Deadline of entries is at 12 noon of Sep. 15. A first, second and third place winner will be awarded per theme. The 10 first place winners will be given a PowerShot S3 IS digital camera and an A3+ sized print out with frame.

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

CLEOFAS VALENCIA and
NILO VALENCIA,
Petitioner,

– versus – SSC Case No. 8-17017-06
MELY RUTA and the SOCIAL
SECURITY SYSTEM,
Respondent.
x - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

SUMMONS

MS. MELY RUTA

GREETINGS:

You are hereby required to file within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS (Makati) Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Rufino Street (formerly Herrera Street), Makati City, your Answer to the Petition for benefit accruing from the death of Artemio B. Valencia.

You are further required to serve a copy of your answer upon the petitioner through their counsel, Atty. Eliza B. Yu, at the Public Attorney's Office, Ground Floor, Gusali ng Katarungan, 2228 F. Zobel Street, Makati City, and upon the SSS through the Senior Vice-President, Legal and Collection, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or *motu proprio*, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence *ex-parte* and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED

Makati City, Philippines, July 31, 2007.

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI – September 10, 2007)

Starmaker competes at Macau Int'l Fireworks contest

STARMAKER FIREWORKS and Pyromusicals will represent the Philippines in the upcoming 19th Macau International Fireworks contest. Starmaker is the country's number one supplier of fireworks and special effects.

The Macau International Fireworks Competition, organized by the Macau Government Tourism Office, is an annual event that started in 1989. From the five teams that initially joined, the Macau International Fireworks competition continues to grow as it draws more participants from all over the world.

On Sep. 15, the contest will open with the lights display of Kimbolton Fireworks Ltd from the United Kingdom and Hanwha Corp from Korea. Other competition days are on Sep. 22, Five Star Fireworks from Australia and San Tai Fireworks Ind Co Ltd from Taiwan; Sep. 25, Grupo Luso Pirotecnia from Portugal and Starmaker Inc; Sep. 29, Illumination Internationale Ltd from the United States and Marutamaya Ogatsu Fireworks Co Ltd from Japan, and Oct. 1, Artifices JCO SA from France and Hunan Xintiancheng Fireworks Manufacturing Co Ltd from China.

Starmaker is also preparing for the Beijing Fireworks competition from Sep. 6 to 13 as consultant to Team Australia. Together, Starmaker and Team Australia will launch their fireworks from a barge near the Great Wall of China.

Starmaker is the same company that is behind the spectacular fireworks display at SM Mall of Asia Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p m. It is also the fireworks supplier of GMA 7.

OBITUARIES

I remember ...
BOBBY

41 years since we first met
I remember still as our eyes met
36 years since we forged our vows
My love grows stronger
as my heart allows
17 years since you've been gone
Understanding this
I leave to GOD alone
It was always different
when you were still here
I still dream and hope you are always near.
I have always loved you then...
In love I remain till we meet again.

Love,
Minnie

ROBERTO (BOBBY) G. JONGCO

In Loving Memory

On the 17th Anniversary of **Roberto "Bobby" G. Jongco's** reunion with **THE LORD,** the following MASSES will be offered today for Bobby's eternal rest.

Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish .... Calderon, Sta. Ana	6:00 pm
St. Paul Chapel .... Mo. Ignacia cor. Timog, Q.C.	6:00 am 6:00 pm
Our Lady of Fatima Parish .... Philamlife Village, Las Piñas	6:00 am
St. Joseph Parish .... Aurora Blvd.	7:00 am
Don Bosco Parish .... Arnaiz Ave. cor. Amorsolo	12:00 nn 6:00 pm

Minnie, Rovi & Shiela, Tina (Weng) & Nolan wish to thank our relatives and friends who have been praying for **Bobby's** peace in the garden of our **LORD.**

To the family and friends of the late

SALUD "SALLY" VILLANUEVA HIZON

The following masses will be offered today, September 10, 2007 in remembrance of her 1st Death Anniversary:

1)	METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL City of San Fernando, Pampanga	5:30 AM, 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM & 12:00 PM
2)	ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH CHURCH San Agustin, CSFP	6:30 AM
3)	GOOD SHEPHERD MEMORIAL PARK City of San Fernando, Pampanga	5:00 PM
4)	MINOR BASILICA OF THE BLACK NAZARENE, Quiapo, Manila	9:00 AM, 10:00 AM
5)	ESPIRITU SANTO PARISH CHURCH Rizal Avenue, Manila	7:00 AM, 6:00 PM
6)	STA. CRUZ PARISH CHURCH Sta. Cruz, Manila	8:00 AM & 1:00 PM

ILUMINADA SUPAN PANLILIO

1951-1961 Philippine Embassy, Washington, D.C.
1962-1968 University of the Philippines

joined her Creator on September 8, 2007 at the age of 85.

Her bereaved family, son **John** and wife **Humby**; sisters and brother, **Salud, Pilar (†) Florentino, Teresita** and **Rosario** and her in-law, nephews, nieces and relatives request and appreciate your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Formation Center, Sta. Monica Parish Church, Mexico, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Hope will not leave us disappointed,
Because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts.
Rom. 5,5

Dr. Rosita Calimbas Francisco

of Biñan, Laguna

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on September 9, 2007 at the age of 92.

Her bereaved children, **Cecile, Ma. Rosario** and **Rodolfo Esperanza,** and **Fr. Jose Mario C. Francisco, S.J.**; granddaughters, **Nanette** and **Anna Esperanza**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at St. Michael's Chapel, Segunda Village, Platero, Biñan, Laguna.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at Eternal Gardens after the Mass of the Resurrection at 2:30 p.m.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

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Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late
DEMETRIA CYNTHIA P. BONDAME
who joined our Creator on August 22, 2007
at the age of 43

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all those who visited and paid their last respect, kept vigil, prayed with and for us, offered masses, flowers, donations, gave mass cards, called from abroad, emailed, attended the daily services and funeral rites and those who in other ways consoled and comforted us at the time of our greatest loss and sorrow.

May God bless you always.

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.

We accept death notices, announcing details of the person's wake and interment. For a very affordable fee you can reach out to everyone who have been a part of the life of your dearly departed. For more information, you may contact Inquirer Classifieds at (02)897 8425.

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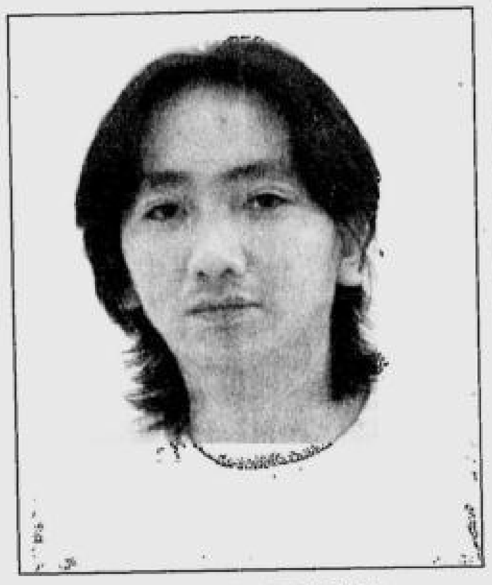
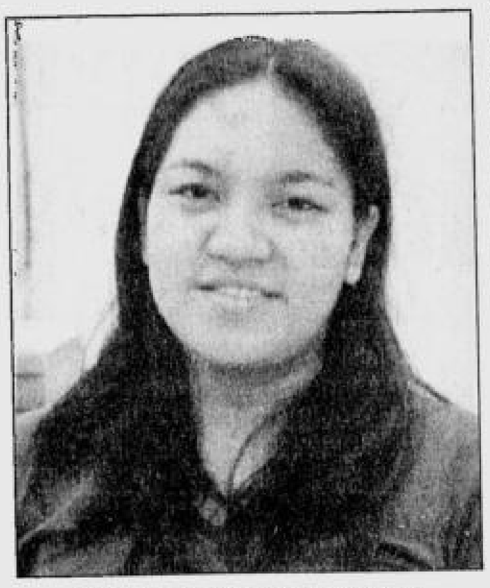
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



GEMER REYES
17-Jul-07



MELODY BURGOS
18-Jul-07

The above persons are no longer connected with Antex Enterprise. Any transactions with them will not be honored by the company.

(PDI–September 3 & 10, 2007)

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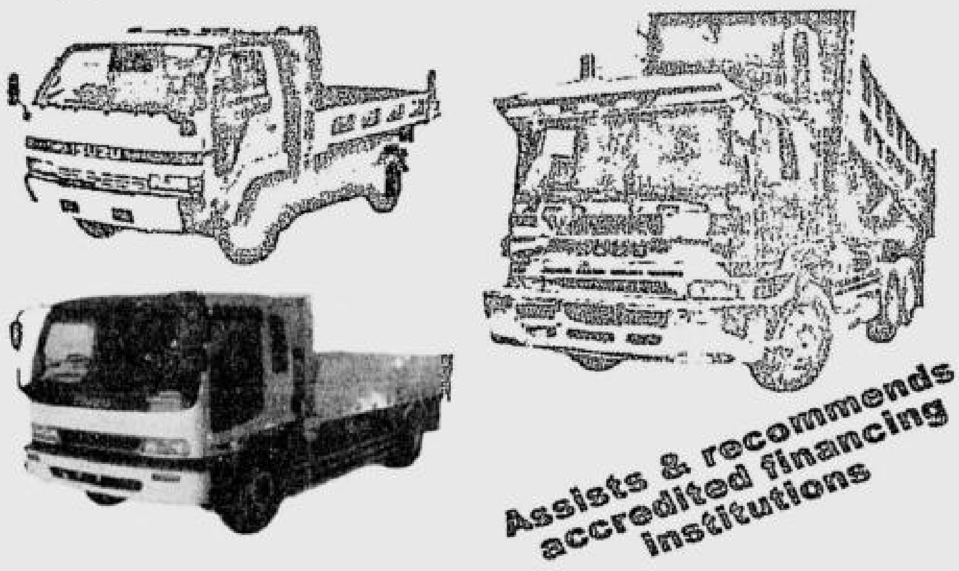

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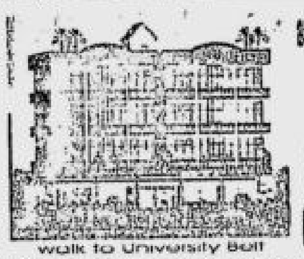

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Denise Huang performs at CCP Filipino artists series

NOTED VIOLINIST Denise Huang is the featured artist for the third Filipino Artists Series (FAS) concert at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (Little Theater) slated on Sept. 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Denise Huang holds a Master of Music degree in Violin Performance at the San Francisco State University (SFSU), where she received the Pone, Morrison and CA scholarships under Prof. Jassen Todorov, and a Bachelor of Music degree from St. Scholastica's College where she graduated as valedictorian of class 2002.

She has appeared as soloist in numerous concerts with the PREDIS Chamber Orchestra, Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and the Manila Symphony Orchestra II, where she served as Assistant Concertmaster for 2 years. She was a prizewinner in all categories of the National Music Competitions for Young Artists (NAMCYA). She participated in the Jeunesses Musicales World Orchestra tour in 2001 to 2002 with performances in Germany, the Netherlands and Eastern Europe. In the US, Huang was featured in several concerts in the Bay Area, including the Yehudi Menuhin seminar led by the renowned Alexander String Quartet. She was a winner of the SFSU's annual concerto competition and performed Bruch's Scottish Fantasy with the SFSU Symphony. Huang served as a teaching assistant at SFSU and currently the concertmaster of the Global Studio Orchestra.

Ticket price: P500.00. Catch this remarkable young artist as she performs Beethoven's Sonata No. 5 for Violin and Piano in F major, op. 24 "Spring Sonata," and Beethoven Romance op. 50; Ravel's Sonata for Violin and Piano, Ysaye's Sonata No. 3 "Ballade," op. 27 no. 3; Balsamo's Fantasia de Kundiman, CB 5 No. 3; and Consolacion's Nocturne. Her pianist is Mary Anne Espina.

For information, please call the CCP Music Division at 832-1125 loc. 1604/1605 or Marketing Department at 832-1125 loc. 1805. Tickets are available at Ticketworld at National Bookstores and Tower Records at 891-9999 or the CCP Box Office at 832-3704 or visit: www.culturalcenter.gov.ph.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street
Pasay City, Philippines

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PANASONIC COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES CORPORATION (PCPC)** with plant site at the Carmelray Industrial Park II (CIP II-SEZ) has filed with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) its application for **PIONEER STATUS** to be granted to its manufacture of Multi-Function Plain Paper Copier (Model SFD-L2), sub-assemblies and parts thereof, based on newness of product and technology, which if approved, will entitle the company to six (6) years of Income Tax Holiday. Said application has been officially accepted and is under process in this office.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath, with fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position papers/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA [Tel. Nos. 551-95-86 and 551-95-44; and telefax 551-3456].

(Sgd.) **LILIA B. DE LIMA**
Director General

(PDI–September 10, 2007)

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PROVISION OF POSTAGE SERVICES FOR THE TRANSMITTAL OF POUCHES AND PARCELS TO PAG-IBIG FUND BRANCH OFFICES AND VARIOUS LOCATIONS WORLDWIDE FOR Y2008-2009

The Pag-IBIG Fund, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Goods & Services intends to apply the sum of Twelve Million Nine Hundred Six Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Four Pesos (P12,906,464.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Provision of Postage Services for the Transmittal of Pouches and Parcels to Pag-IBIG Fund Branch Offices and Various Locations Worldwide for Y2008-2009. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The Pag-IBIG Fund now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Provision of Postage Services for the Transmittal of Pouches and Parcels to Pag-IBIG Fund Branch Offices and Various Locations Worldwide. The contract shall take effect on January 1, 2008. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizen/s sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section III of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC-GS Secretariat of Pag-IBIG Fund and inspect the Bidding Documents at Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City on September 10, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC-GS Secretariat, Room 704, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City starting September 10, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Nine Thousand Pesos (P9,000.00) in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check payable to Pag-IBIG Fund. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Pag-IBIG Fund will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 17, 2007 at 9:00 AM at the Taduran Hall, Room 602, 6th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to Room 704, 7th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City on or before 9:00 AM of October 1, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount indicated in the Bidding Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on October 1, 2007 at the Taduran Hall, Room 602, 6th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City at 9:00 AM. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The Pag-IBIG Fund, Head Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Messrs. Wilfrido Nacito S. Reyes and Jose Maria M. Diaz at 811-4262 / 894-5815 or visit our Corporate Website at **http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph** or e-mail us at **gsd@pagibigfund.gov.ph.**

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
GOODS & SERVICES

By:

(Sgd.) **DELIA L. BERNARDO**
Vice President
Administration Group
Vice Chair, BAC-GS

(PDI–September 10, 2007)

Home Guaranty Corporation

Office of the President

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATED SALE

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is inviting interested parties to submit letters of intent to negotiate and bid proposals for the disposition of the property described below thru outright sale (in bulk or by phase), joint venture, lease, or other similar or variant schemes:

LOCATION OF THE PROPERTY	DESCRIPTION					
		LOTS	HOUSE & LOT	TOTAL	AREA (sqm)	STATUS
IMPERIAL CENTRAL PLAINS SUBDIVISION Brgy. Bakod Bayan, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija	Phase 1	534	197	731	44,645.54	Developed
	Phase 2	8	0	8	111,120.00	Partially developed
	Phase 3	1	0	1	31,559.00	Rawland
	Total	543	197	740	187,324.54	

1. The property shall be disposed on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis;
2. For outright sale proposals, terms of payment may be in cash or installment;
3. Offers for joint venture should indicate the guaranteed share of HGC set at market rates;
4. Offers for sale or joint venture by phase or lease must indicate the proposed terms including a provision for escalation, and
5. For other similar or variant schemes, the proposed terms of sale must be indicated.

HGC reserves the right to require additional information as it deems necessary to better understand and evaluate the offer(s).

Activities	Date/Time
Submission of Letters of Intent & Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	September 10 to 13, 2007
Pre-negotiation Conference	September 14, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.
Submission of Eligibility Requirements & Financial Proposals/Offers	September 18, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.

Interested parties are encouraged to inspect the property before tendering their offers.

Details pertaining to the property as well as the guidelines for the negotiation can be obtained from the HGC's Asset Management and Disposition Group (AMDG) Office located at the 4th Floor of Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City from September 10 to 13, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P 2,500.00.

The Financial proposals/offers shall be sealed and dropped at the designated box located at the HGC's AMDG office.

For inquiries, please call the Asset Management Department at tel. nos. 897-32-86 & 897-32-90 or visit our office at the Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

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(PDI - Sept. 9 & 10, 2007)

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BUSINESS

Japan augments SCTEx budget with P6-B loan

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BASES CONVERSION Development Authority has secured a P6-billion supplemental loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, which would be used to cover the shortfall in funds for the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway.

BCDA vice president Aileen Zosa said that the JBIC approved the loan last Sept. 6, but it could take six months before any drawdown could be made.

"For this reason, BCDA is arranging for a commercial loan of P4 billion from a consortium of banks that include Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.," Zosa said in an interview.

She added that the group of banks has approved in principle the loan, which BCDA will use as bridge financing until the JBIC supplemental loan becomes available.

Last week, BCDA president and chief executive Narciso L. Abaya said that the 43.27-kilometer Clark-Tarlac section of SCTEx is expected to be opened within the year, now that it is already 96-percent complete.

Referred to as Package 2 of SCTEx, the Clark-Tarlac leg was supposed to be finished by October. But contractor Hazama-Taisei-Nippon Steel (HTN) Joint Venture has again asked for an extension of 54 days.

Package 1 is the 50-kilometer Subic-Clark section, which is expected to be opened next year.

However, contractor Kajima-Obayashi-JFE Engineering-Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Joint Venture (KOJM-JV) has also asked for a four-month extension, which means that the section would be completed by March 2008.

BCDA is bankrolling the construction of the project through a P20.9-billion JBIC loan that was signed in 2004.

Abaya said the peso's appreciation was blamed for the shortfall, adding that the currency's strength effectively trimmed the fund's value to some P18 billion.

RP sees surplus after years in the red

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY IS EXPECTed to post a consolidated public sector surplus of P56.8 billion in 2008, ending years of being in the red following the Asian crisis of the late 1990s.

The public sector's estimated budget surplus next year is a huge turnaround from the projected deficit of P21.8 billion this year.

The expected fiscal recovery will result from the national's government's effort to post a balanced budget by 2008 from an estimated deficit of P63 billion this year.

The government is banking on improved tax take next year, citing reforms to shore up collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

Data from the Department of Finance show that budget surpluses will be recorded by social security institutions (in the amount of P51.3 billion), the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (P1 billion), government financial institutions (P7.1 billion) and local government units (P13.6 billion).

Social security institutions includes the Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System and Philhealth.

Data also show that P11 billion may be added to the surplus resulting from adjustments of previously computed financial data.

On the other hand, deficit items in the public sector's budget next year include the P16.5 billion in combined deficit of government-owned and -controlled corporations, and the P10.6 billion that would be allocated to pay debts of the old central bank.

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BUSINESS Monday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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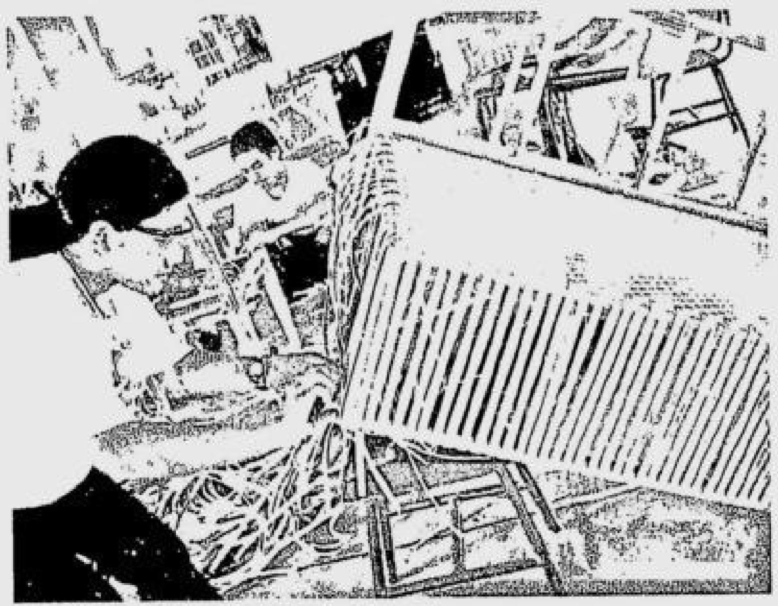
Dream weavers


WEAVE in faith, strength in the thread

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

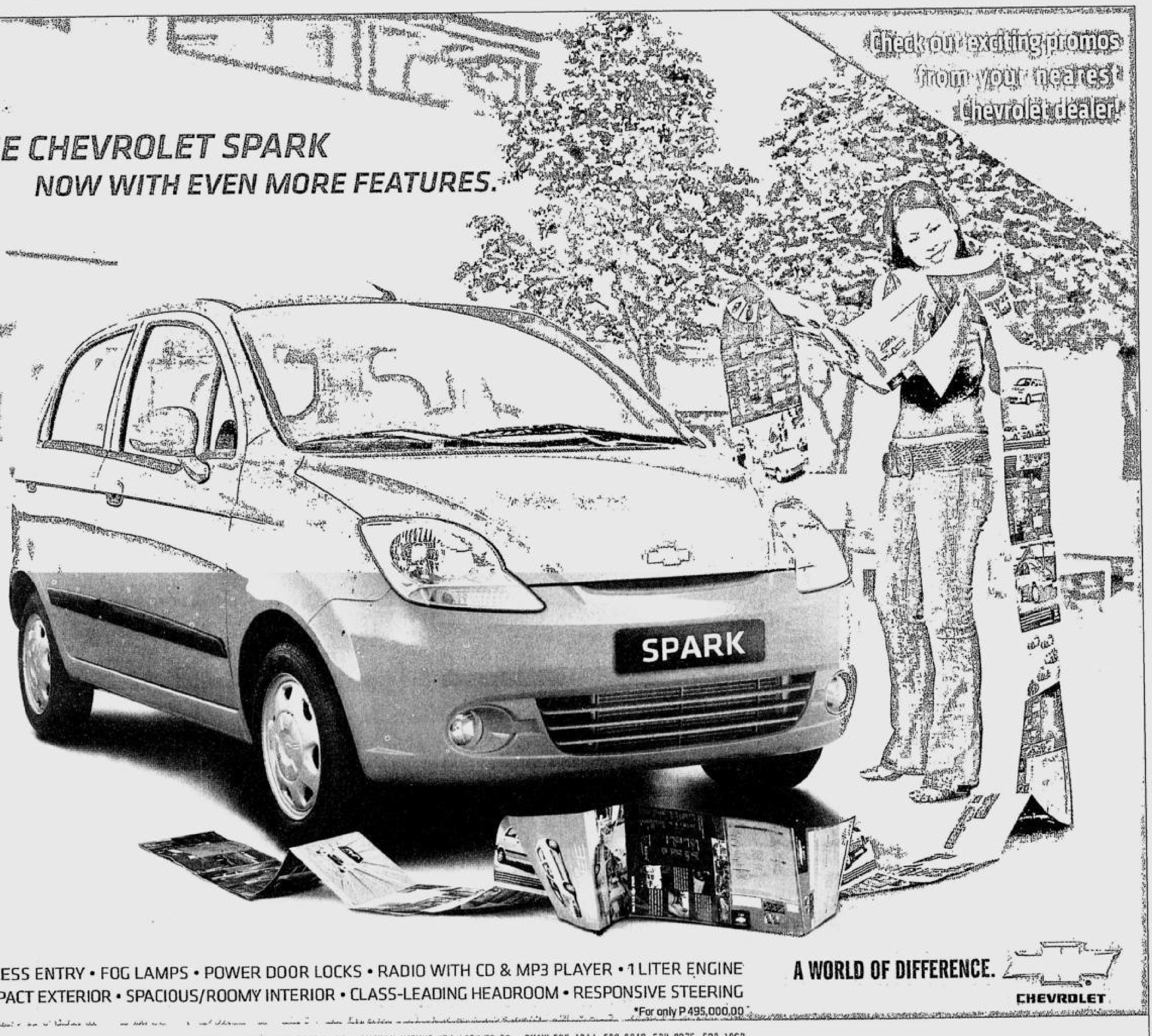
BUYERS AROUND THE world may not know it, but that piece of exquisite outdoor furniture they bought from Cebu-based furniture exporter Dedon Manufacturing Inc. has helped keep many poor Filipino youth off the streets.

This is because, over the last two years, close to 500 out-of-school youth in the care of the Don Bosco Technology Center in Cebu have been trained and then hired as specialty weavers to meet the increasing export demand for Dedon's high-end line of outdoor furniture.

Another 300 are scheduled to be trained

DREAM/B2-2

DEDON, Don Bosco and DED help impart weaving skills to the youth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MOVEMENTS

Leo Burnett's exec goes to Hall of Fame

FOR WINNING SIX GOLD AD OF THE YEAR AWARDS, LEO BURNETT Manila's chief creative officer Richard Irvine was recently honored as the fourth inductee into the Creative Guild Hall of Fame.

Irvine, who hails from England, likewise distinguished himself as the first foreigner to be so honored. It took him only seven years to do it, scoring all his AD of the Year Awards for Leo Burnett. He was inducted into the Creative Guild Hall of Fame for McDonald's "Lolo" TV, McDonald's "Opening" TV, Perla "Lean on Me" Print, Perla "Touching Moments" Radio, Tide "Instinct" TV and WSI "March to Millions" Radio. Additionally, Leo Burnett took home a silver for TVC Campaign of the Year for Mr. Clean "Washing Machine" campaign.

Irvine holds BA honors in advertising and graphic design. He joined Leo Burnett 20 years ago. After working at the Leo Burnett offices in London, Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh, he was posted to Hemisphere-Leo Burnett in Manila in 1999.

New PNOC president named

Antonio M. Cailao was recently appointed president and CEO of the Philippine National Oil Co. Prior to this assignment, he was chair of PNOC Energy Development Corp. PNOC-EDC).

Cailao, a veteran international banker for Citigroup, was tasked by the government to oversee the smooth privatization of a number of PNOC subsidiaries, including PNOC-EDC, by yearend.

His overseas exposure in the global financial scene will come handy in managing these privatizations.

Next in line is the privatization of the PNOC Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC), the Company's oil and gas subsidiary.

His 20 years of overseas assignment included senior management positions in Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore, Vietnam and Latin America.

Cailao was the first Asian and Filipino to receive the prestigious Citigroup Chairman's Award, not just once, but twice. His last posting at Citigroup was as Asia Region head for Corporate Banking clients for Asian customers in the 12 Asian countries.

Cailao obtained his BSBA and MBA from the University of the Philippines. It was during his student days that he founded AIESEC Philippines, an international student exchange program in the area of finance and business that has benefited thousands of Filipinos and participated in by top universities in the country.

Microsoft appoints managing director

Microsoft Philippines recently announced the promotion and appointment of Rafael Rollan as new managing director. Rollan will start his new role officially on Oct. 1, 2007.

Rollan has been with Microsoft for four and a half years, where he started as sales manager for enterprise accounts. Over the last four years, Rollan worked his way up and took over the helm of the enterprise business as director of the Enterprise Partner Group.

"I am very excited about this opportunity to lead Microsoft Philippines," said Rollan. "We have a strong and passionate team here in the country. We know that there are so many opportunities for our customers and for our country to benefit from technology. We will focus on helping our customers and partners optimize those opportunities. We will also continue to help build the country's IT infrastructure and work to empower the underserved sectors."

Rollan takes over from Antonio "TJ" Javier Jr., who has been the managing director of Microsoft Philippines for five fiscal years. Under Javier's leadership, the subsidiary tripled its business as well as its manpower resources in the country and implemented citizenship programs designed to help aid in the country's economic development.

Filipino heads Asean council

The Chamber of Furniture of the Philippines (CFIP) has officially taken over the helm of the Asean Furniture Industries Council (AFIC) from the Malaysian Furniture Industries Council (MFIC).

The Philippines, which is next in line for chairmanship after Malaysia, will carry the baton for AFIC from 2007 to 2009. The other member countries of the AFIC are Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand.

Dato' Yong Seng Yeow, president of MFIC and the immediate past chair of AFIC formally handed over the reigns of AFIC to Nicolaas K. De Lange who was appointed by the board of CFIP as chair of AFIC for the two-year term. De Lange has previously served as president of CFIP for two terms and also manages his own company, Designs Ligna.

De Lange said: "I am honored to be given this great responsibility to take on this dynamic role. The new secretariat will build upon the good foundation established by the past committee and continue to pursue initiatives in the best interests of the Asean furniture industries and all its members.

AFIC will remain an active player in increasing intra-Asean trade and continue to enhance our members' competitiveness amid intense global competition."

Pacific Internet appoints new VP

Pacific Internet, an affiliate of Pacific Internet Limited, one of the largest Internet service providers in Asia Pacific, has appointed Rosemarie Pineda as the new vice president for product development and marketing.

In her dual function as the head for both marketing and product development, Pineda will supervise the development of new products and IP services such as Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP), data/Internet access and other value added services like managed security according to the needs and demands of the local market. She is also in charge of growing Pacific Internet's regional brands in the Philippine market.

She is further expected to lead customer and market research initiatives, advertising and promotional campaigns, as well as conceptualize and implement Pacific Internet Philippines' "Go to Market" programs.

Pineda's extensive experience in marketing, sales, product and brand management, in the telecommunications, manufacturing and consumer goods industries has made her a vital member of the Pacific Internet team.

"There is a growing market for value-added services such as VoIP, data and Internet services in the country. Her vast industry experience and insights will help us further in developing innovative products and marketing campaigns that will truly capture the changing market's needs," said Jojie Yap, managing director of Pacific Internet Philippines.

Periquet chairs Yegap

Entrepreneur and former Youth Sector Representative Anna Marie Periquet was appointed by the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) as chair of the Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia Pacific (Yegap) during its meeting held in Perth, Australia. CACCI is composed of 23 member countries.

Yegap's main objective is to promote a pro-enterprise spirit among young entrepreneurs in Asia-Pacific.

To achieve this goal, Yegap cultivates a culture of entrepreneurship among the youth in the Asia-Pacific region by pushing for the inclusion of entrepreneurship subjects in the secondary level and entrepreneurship courses and departments in the tertiary level; the establishment of university affiliated business incubator facilities and the creation of entrepreneurship clubs in schools.

In 1992, Periquet formed the Young Entrepreneurs' Business Club, the youth arm of the Philippine Chamber of the Commerce Industry, composed of start-up entrepreneurs below the age of 40.

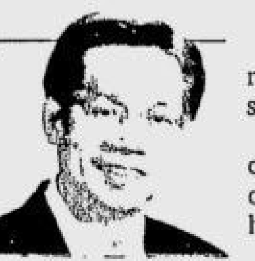
The club spearheaded the Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP) that provides training to budding entrepreneurs.

The YEP is now a government program adopted by the National Youth Commission where Periquet also served as council member.

Credit bureau: Where do we go from here?

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Jaime Y. Ladao



THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF A CREDIT bureau has garnered mixed reactions from the public. It has been met with concern, if not fear, for the possible loss of privacy.

On the other hand, the financial sector tends to look favorably towards its formation. This is especially true in the recent years, as moves that advocate the burgeoning micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country have become more active.

Backtracking to the basics, what is a credit bureau in the first place? How does this affect everyone—from the banks to the common consumer?

A credit bureau is an independent organization that compiles information on individuals and corporate entities. It aims to facilitate reporting and sharing of credit information among lenders to minimize nonperforming loans and assets in the industry, to limit fraud and to aid financial institutions in evaluating and rationing credit based on borrowers' abilities to pay.

There are three types of credit bureaus: The basic, full and world class bureau. The basic bureau gathers negative information, while the full bureau, both positive and negative.

On a completely different level, the world class bureau seeks to bank on an infinitely broad data spectrum, covering even consulting services.

A world class bureau collects unbiased and factual records on identity, public and statutory details, credit transactions and history, etc.

It enables the use of risk management, fraud and loss prevention tools in order to stop identity theft, improve transparency, encourage investment and provide a solid platform for economic growth.

The consolidation of data in a single outfit allows for lower credit processing costs, faster turnaround in credit decisions and better rates for consumers due to the competition created among the lenders.

Benefits

The establishment of a credit bureau brings about benefits to various sectors of the society, in particular:

Consumers and Businesses. Along with a strong economy and a stable financial sector, consumers and businesses can have better access to credit because of its increased availability. The existence of a credit bureau also urges individuals and corporate entities to build up their credit reputations and histories.

Financial sector. Financial institutions can make accurate risk predictions due to the availability and accessibility to a breadth of credit information. Equipped with the accurate data, banks can lend to broader risk segments and implement pricing that reflects individual risks.

Regulatory agencies. More accurate information on the health of the financial sector enables better supervision.

Economy. A well-regulated and thriving financial sector increases the stability of capital allocation and allows for better credit availability to consumers and businesses, and ultimately, spurring economic growth.

Principles

The establishment of a credit bureau, albeit highly advantageous, necessitates the support of several organizations, mainly banking and financial institutions. The success of a credit bureau is highly dependent on the adherence to the fundamental principles:

- Principle of Reciprocity—The credit bureau members would have access to data only if they provide data.
- Principle of Neutrality—The credit bureau will only collate and present facts, and, not opinions.
- Efficient Dispute Handling—The credit bureau will provide an effective means to handle disputes arising out of data stored and presented by the bureau.
- Security Standards—The credit bureau will ensure data confidentiality and secured access to data.
- Customer Data Protection—The credit bureau will have an effective means of managing consent of subjects of credit history.

Infrastructure

A credit bureau infrastructure must be highly customizable, and must have the ability to collate data from varied sources such as banks, financial institutions, utility providers, telecom companies and public institutions (i.e. Securities and Exchange Commission, Department of Trade and Industry, Commission on Audit, Courts, etc.). It should have the capability to adopt a presentation format that is both comprehensive and intelligible, and ideally, should consist of the following:

- Demographic and identity information about consumer (individual) and commercial (business) entities
- Credit information
- Payment history
- Security / Collateral & Guarantor information
- Relationship information
- Inquiry information
- Litigation information
- Public records

Conclusion

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has long been pushing for the passage of the Credit Bureau Bill, with little progress.

Banks and other industry groups have fully backed up this endeavor, but to date, discussions and talks about the credit bureau remain as is—conversation topics, ideas ... brief strokes of brilliance that are not put into action.

And as always, we are lagging behind our Asian neighbors such as Thailand, Hong Kong and Vietnam. Is it not about time that a move toward real economic growth be given serious attention?

(The author is chair of the MAP Chapters Committee and President of Dun & Bradstreet Philippines Inc. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

AFTER their training, Don Bosco students are now ready to be employed as specialty weavers.

Dream weavers

From page B2-1

because new orders have been pouring in, which proves yet again how furniture made and designed in the Philippines has made its mark in the world market.

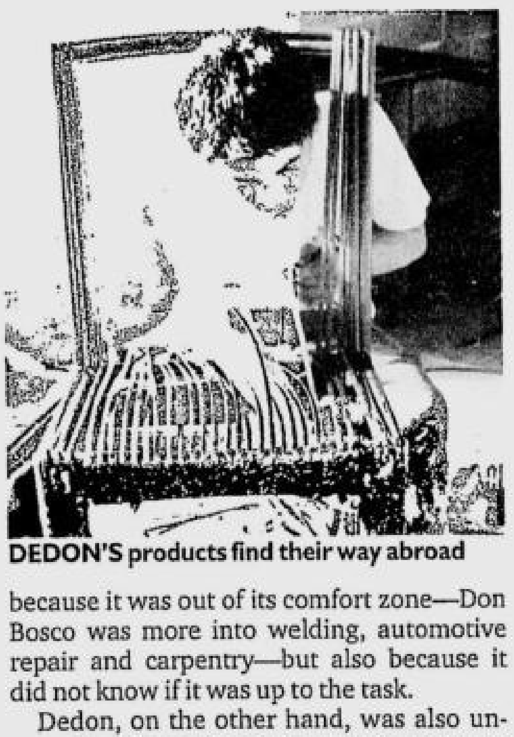
That all started in 2004, when Dedon could not accept any more export orders because it lacked the necessary manpower to execute the weaves that make Dedon furniture a cut above the rest, thus hampering its ability to meet orders on time.

As destiny would have it, Don Bosco had earlier approached Dedon to ask if the manufacturing firm could accept some of its vocational school students, mostly out-of-school youth, for on-the-job training.

Dedon accepted, and it was so impressed by the skills and attitude of the Don Bosco students toward work that it ended up hiring many of them after their two-month training, mostly as welders, says Grace Neilly S. Querickiol, values formation program manager of Don Bosco.

Dedon CEO Bobby Dekeyser then thought that with the values training and skills of the Don Bosco students, they could be easily trained to learn a new skill—weaving—and solve its human resource problem.

But while Don Bosco was interested in the concept and welcomed the possibility of helping more marginalized youth, it was hesitant to undertake the project not only because it was out of its comfort zone—Don Bosco was more into welding, automotive repair and carpentry—but also because it did not know if it was up to the task.



DEDON'S products find their way abroad

Dedon, on the other hand, was also unsure about investing in the training because it also did not know if the partnership would work out. It did not have that much cash on hand to gamble on the project.

It was at this point that the German Development Service (DED) came into the picture through its SCOPE project.

SCOPE consultant Matthias Niggel said the chance of embedding a vocational training center in Dedon's supply chain was too good to pass up.

Playing its role as catalyst, DED invested 500,000 in the construction of a training center for weavers within the Don Bosco compound, as provided by the memorandum of agreement forged in December 2004 between DED, Dedon and Don Bosco.

Don Bosco committed to train and provide Dedon with skilled weavers that the company badly needed, while Dedon and DED provided the funding and technical support.

The project got off the ground in January 2005, and by June, the center produced its first graduates—257 out-of-school youth aged 18 to 25, who were proud to call themselves highly skilled weavers.

From June to November last year, another 180 students graduated from the school.

"Dedon took care of their skills training. Don Bosco took care of the values training, which is important in making them the kind of workers that they are," Querickiol says.

At the country's first formal weaving school, the students go to Dedon for orientation and technical skills training. After two weeks, they begin work on marketable furniture pieces that Dedon buys from the students.

They then go back to Don Bosco for continued values training and, after just four months, they are assured of a job at Dedon or one of its many subcontractors.

Challenges inevitably cropped up along the way, and kinks in the system were ironed out. But the first phase was a resounding success.

That the out-of-school youth under Don Bosco learned a new and marketable skill while Dedon was able to increase production by as much as 3.5 container loads of furniture, are not the only measures of success.

More importantly, the project has changed the way the youth think of themselves. For the first time, they are dreaming big.

"The training has changed the lives of these young people," Querickiol says. "Many of them feel good about earning money for themselves. Some of them have even decided to go back to school. They now have a sense of direction and responsibility that they did not have before."

All of these business and psychological benefits are enough to move the partnership to its next phase, which should see the training of another 300 weavers.

Dedon and Don Bosco can't wait to get started.

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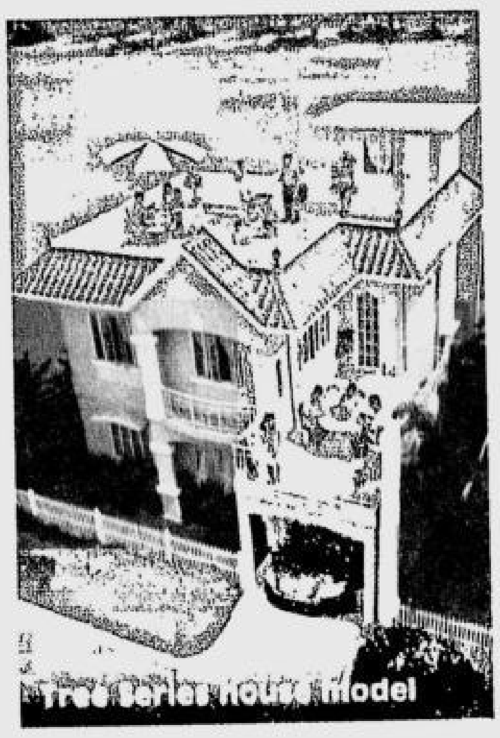

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Filinvest also developed innovative communities like the Asenso Village which are intended for budding entrepreneurs. Now they have the convenience of having a home and business under one roof.

The company also expanded its market reach by tapping high growth regional centers. There is an ongoing expansion at North Luzon with the development of Somerset Lane in Tarlac and Hampton Orchards and Claremont in Pampanga as well as West Palms in Puerto Princesa.

Aside from communities, Filinvest has developed township developments like Filinvest East County, Ciudad de Calamba and Timberland Heights where schools, hospitals, business establishments are just a stone throw away from their homes.

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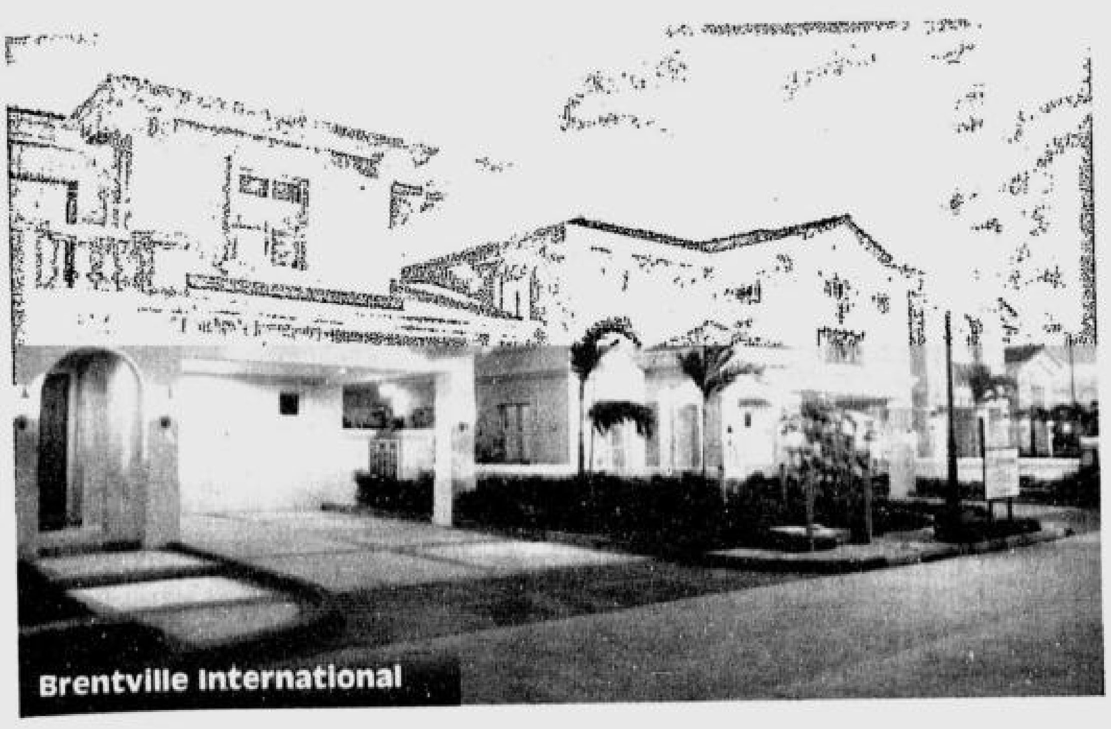

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TELCO CUTS THROUGH CLUTTER

Globe consolidates units under single brand, logo

GERARDO Ablaza Jr., Globe president and chief executive officer

By Daxim L. Lucas

HOW IMPORTANT IS A NEW logo to improving and ensuring the fortunes of a company?

How important is consolidating a company's diverse product line under a single brand name?

In the cutthroat world of telecommunications services, image apparently plays a significant role in keeping a company competitive vis-a-vis its rivals, especially when one is up against a behemoth with more resources and an edge in market share.

New logo

Globe Telecom Inc. recently unveiled its new brand logo called "Globe Life" and merged all its corporate identities under a single "Globe" brand.

Henceforth, all products of the company and its subsidiaries would be marketed to the public using a single name, eliminating a plethora of brands, which company officials said had "created confusion" both internally and externally.

In a briefing, Globe Telecom president and CEO Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr. expressed hopes that the company would experience a "lift" in its market share and earnings due to the rebranding, but stressed that such a benefit would only be a byproduct of the company's main goal.

"What we really plan to do is to simplify things for our publics, both inside and out," he said. "This simplifies our brand approach and makes [the company] easier to remember."

The company was previously using several brands like GlobeSolutions and Globequest for broadband solutions offered to business users.

While Ablaza was hesitant to admit it, however, it is a tried and tested principle in marketing that having a unified public image increases brand recall, as long as the products offered by the company are broadly within the same business line.

Ablaza described the branding strategy of Globe's various units before as "cluttered" and "difficult to remember" and the country's second-largest telecommunications network had "a proliferation of brands."

"We decided that we would like to have the mission of 'enriching lives through communication' manifest specifically as benefits of 'ease and relevance' for our customers," he said. "In the spirit of our mission, we would like our products and services to be easy to understand, easy to use and hassle-free."

'Globe Life'

According to the company's marketing line, the "Globe Life" logo "carries with it a promise to enrich lives through ease and relevance."

"Globe will strive to create and deliver products and services that will greatly benefit customers bringing them closer to their aspirations, and connecting them with the people and events that matter most," the company said in a statement.

Officials pointed out that the corporate structure of the company and its operating units would remain largely untouched by the rebranding, as only the public face would change.

"Globe's mission is to transform and enrich lives through communications," the company said. "Internally, this defines how we think, how we work and how we behave. But it would be hollow if this mission remained locked-up in Globe's internal belief system, and did not translate to customer benefit."

The new symbol "is meant to promise endless possibilities," the company said. "It illustrates the wealth of products and services that Globe offers to enrich their customers' experience. Each icon in the new logo represents not just the things Globe offers today, but also those that inspire Globe to innovate."

At the center of the "Globe Life" logo is a hand, representing the company's focus on its customers "who are at the core of everything we do," Globe added.

Company officials also explained that the firm is moving toward a state where its customers would have to "interface" with only a single representative to have his various concerns addressed, even if that company representative would have to coordinate with other units internally.

Globe business head Gil B. Genio added that "what is new ... is that [the client] will see only one brand across all our products and services, and our refreshed commitment and spirit, driving every individual in Globe, to be more customer-centric than ever."

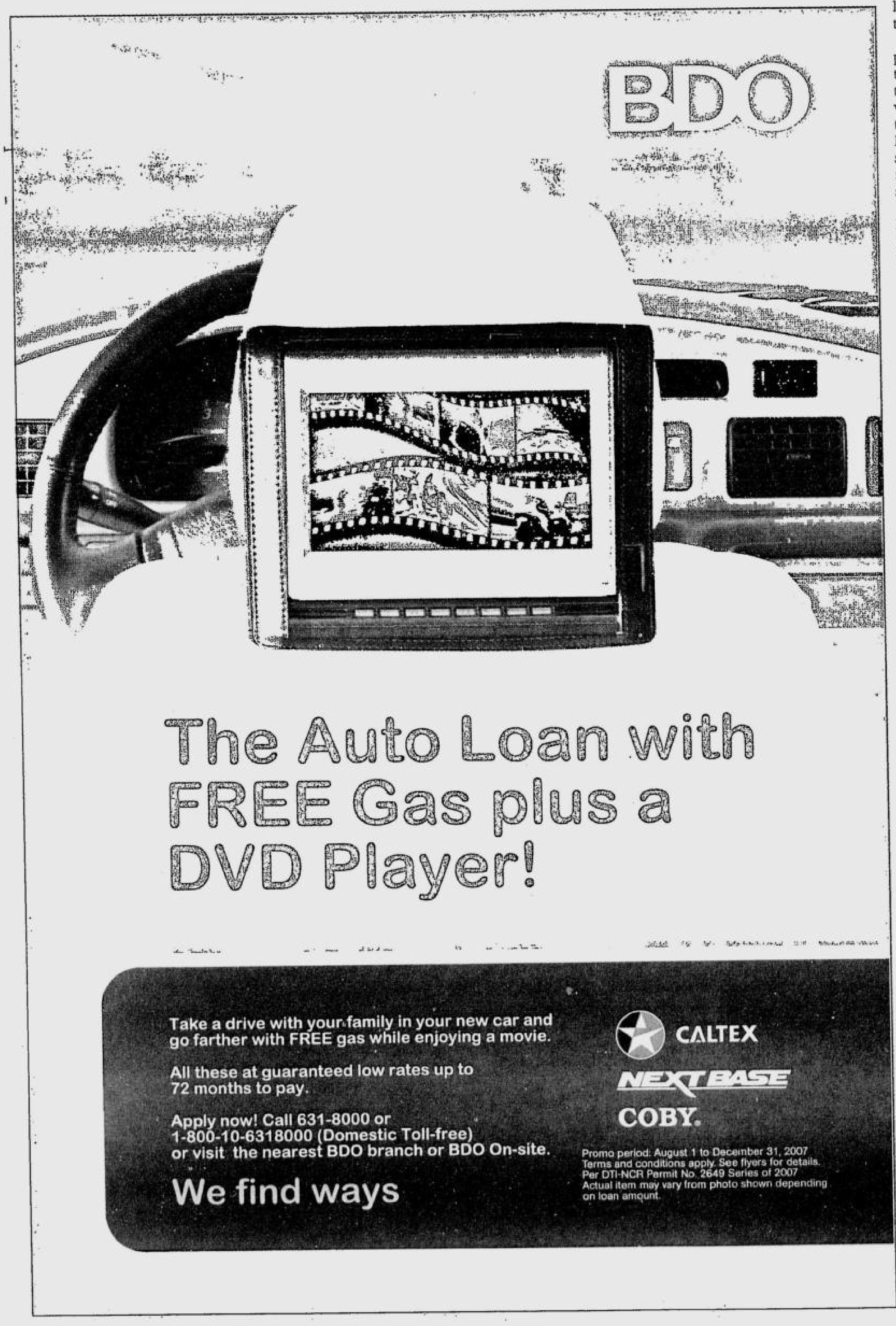
Unified approach

Globe Business will now be the carrier brand for the Enterprise Business Group and Small and Medium Enterprise Group.

Globe consumer wireless business group head Ferdinand M. Dela Cruz added that the unified brand also brings with it new products and services.

During the media briefing, Globe unveiled its promise of excellent customer experience in all touch points across their companies; an OFW family pack, which aims to bring OFWs and their families together by making communication even more affordable and seamless; and the Globe and Yahoo! partnership for browsing made easy via oneSearch exclusive on MyGlobe.

"The world of telecommunications, as we know and experience it, continues to evolve, and Globe along with it," Ablaza said.



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Sitel Phils produces first graduates of new course

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—AN EXPERIMENTAL call center course developed by business outsourcing giant Sitel Philippines has graduated its first batch of students.

The University of the Cordilleras (UC), the first school to test the Sitel-designed course in communications and technology application, honored 68 business management students who officially passed the course during graduation rites last August.

Sitel is also preparing to tie up with the University of Baguio (UB), which has obtained credentials for a specialized call center curriculum it plans to offer this year, the INQUIRER learned.

Dr. Leonarda Aguinalde, dean of the UC college of business administration, said Sitel has been negotiating for partnerships with Baguio schools to secure a labor force once it expands.

Sitel president Danilo Reyes told the INQUIRER earlier that the firm plans to expand its call center services to include technical or marketing response systems for engineers, lawyers and doctors based overseas.

He said the Sitel course module would be offered as an elective for students, who want first-hand training in Sitel working processes.

Aguinalde said partnership arrangement with Sitel is ideal for universities because it opens doors to the $49-billion global industry.

For many universities, call centers offer them the means to increase the employment rate for their graduates, she said.

"We can graduate a [hotel and management] student, but she can look around and realize there are no new hotels or restaurants being built [to accommodate new employees]. It's a condition [shared by] the rest of the country," Aguinalde said.

She said UC also benefits from the "added competence" that the Sitel program offers undergraduate and graduate school students.

Apart from the edge offered by the elective once the same HR student applies at Sitel, the firm's training course expands her vocabulary, "allowing her to match the job seekers who graduated from Ateneo."

Aguinalde said she offered the Sitel test course as a free elective by converting the 300-hour internship requirement for business students to 300-hour sessions with Sitel trainors.

Aguinalde said most university graduates would still treat call centers as a vehicle for short-term or transitional employment.

This may explain the poor response to a special UC curriculum on call center technology and communication when the university offered it recently.

"We received the clearance from the Commission on Higher Education [to offer this course], but when we opened, there were no takers," Aguinalde said.

"Perhaps it is not wise to compete with call centers themselves, which also offer free training to job candidates in their academies," she said.

UB is exploring a full curriculum to train career call center professionals, but it will be open to students enrolled in other fields of study, like political science.

"The idea is to offer political science students another way of applying their skills because there are far fewer job offerings for their profession," said a UB instructor who was among those who prepared the curriculum.

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Underrated mining giant flexes muscles

MINERS of Philex Mines, Tuba, Benguet inspect the open site mining area.
LEONCIO G. BALBIN JR.

Philex Mining on aggressive exploration mode

By Daxim L. Lucas

MINING STOCKS HAVE been hot picks with investors in recent months, both the speculative and serious kind.

Some stocks, in particular, have recorded spectacular price increases, rewarding those who have bet large and small fortunes on firms with little fundamentals to stand on.

One mining issue, however, has remained largely below the radar of investors, despite it having among the strongest fundamentals in the market and the cheapest stock price relative to its actual and potential earnings.

Indeed, despite the growing interest in mining, the share price movement of publicly listed Philex Mining Corp. have yet to attract the attention of a broader set of buyers.

Second look

In a recent interview, however, Philex chairand CEO Walter W. Brown outlined the direction of one of the country's oldest and largest mining firms that may force investors to take a second look.

Specifically, he laid out a set of projects that would help the company through the expected exhaustion of its existing precious metals reserves by 2014.

"We're fully covered until 2014, but we [also] have a lot of projects down the road," Brown said, explaining that the company's ability to profit from its existing mining operations will depend both on the quality of the remaining ore at its sites and the price of precious metals on the world market.

And with gold prices having hit a 16-month high on the world market, investors are taking a closer look at mining stocks, including Philex, whose share price rose sharply—and quite unexpectedly—on the Philippine Stock Exchange last week.

During the interview, Brown revealed that Philex had already expressed its interest in setting up operations in the gold-rich Mount Diwalwal Mining Reservation.

He said that he had recently made his intentions known to government authorities in charge of developing what is touted as the Philippines' richest gold mine.

Huge gold reserves

Mount Diwalwal in Compostela Valley is estimated to hold as much as $18 billion of gold reserves, according to the latest government estimate.

According to Brown, the company is uniquely positioned to develop the area and succeed where other mining firms have failed, despite the fact that the area is a hotbed of unrest, with small miners, indigenous people, local government and the military and rebel units fighting for control of the lucrative gold panning operations.

"We are familiar with all the factors involved," he said. "We have been in the business for many years. We have the local network and we know the LGUs (local government units) and the indigenous people."

As far as turning Mt. Diwalwal into a profitable mining operation for all stakeholders goes, Brown said that no foreign company can match the experience that Philex has.

Aggressive program

With the continuing high metal prices, Philex and its gold subsidiary Philex Gold Inc. have embarked on an aggressive nationwide exploration program.

In Benguet, the company has started extensive exploration of the existing orebody and surrounding prospects.

Diamond drilling will be undertaken at the Sto. Tomas II orebody of the existing Padcal mine to possibly extend further the mine life.

Philex has programmed several known porphyry copper-gold targets for exploration this year.

The Tapaya prospect, 5 km to the southeast of the Padcal mine is currently drilling its second hole with some encouraging results.

Butan and Midway prospects, two major gold vein systems close to the existing Padcal mine are currently being explored and expected to provide additional ore to the company's existing mine.

Restarting operations

"Other prospects in Luzon located in the provinces of Batangas, Pangasinan and Zambalez will be explored once the permits are

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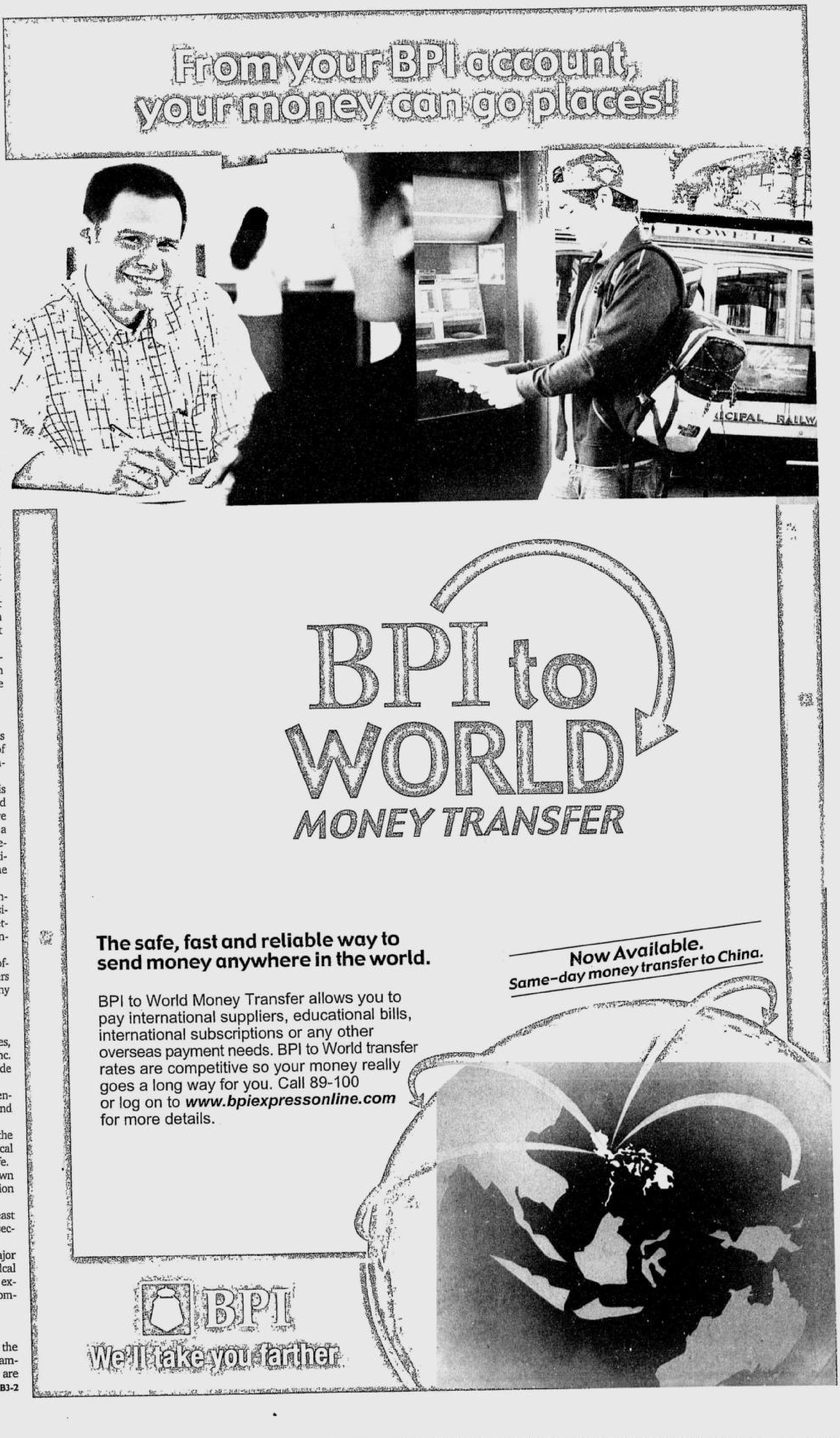

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Former Bulacan governor sustains push for SMEs

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF MALOLOS—THREE TERMS as governor of Bulacan have failed to tire the dreamer and doer in Josefina "Josie" de la Cruz.

After completing nine years of public service, this Ateneo de Manila University management engineering graduate has moved on to the private sector to sustain her advocacy for local economic development.

Her vehicle is the Bulacan North Food Exchange (BNFE), a private enterprise where De la Cruz, 49, is the president.

"We want the private sector to give more jobs," De la Cruz said of the venture's goal during her presentation at the recent 2007 public governance forum dubbed "Mahal ko ang Pilipinas" in Pasay City.

Governance system

In that event, the BNFE was featured as one of the sectoral organizations that had been initiated into the public governance system, a participatory approach introduced by the International Solidarity in Asia.

With ISA's guidance, BNFE has crafted a roadmap to reaching its vision by 2017.

The BNFE, she said, "supports the province's vision of a stronger middle class."

"Our commitment is to improve the lives of our people. In Bulacan, our formula is the [BNFE]. As an infrastructure, it is a strategic marketing and distribution depot that will modernize the distribution of goods and services in North Luzon. It will also showcase Philippine, Southeast Asian and global products," she said.

BNFE, she added, is also a "concrete application" of the model encouraged by the Foundations for People Development.

THE GOVERNOR receives an Alab Haraya Award.

That model consolidates programs for people development like packaging centers, cooperative marts, savings and micro-finance associations and values education programs, FPD president Raul Hernandez said.

In Bulacan's case, De la Cruz said the provincial government-private sector partnership during her stint as governor had laid the groundwork for the BNFE.

The P85-million funding for the depot to be built in 2008 in a 20-hectare area in Balagtas town is shared by the provincial government and the private sector.

The national government, through the Department of Public Works and Highway, is constructing a P340-million interchange near the BNFE, also in 2008.

To complement these efforts, the provincial and local governments have retooled the system by eliminating bureaucratic red tape through expanded computerization in real property tax information, geographic information, billing system, assessment operation and promotional programs.

Fertile ground

Programs like the BNFE find fertile ground in Bulacan because of the province's considerable economic and human resources.

In Bulacan, there are 1,579 registered cooperatives with 191,937 members. Their total assets amount to P5.299 billion and they have created at least 17,129 jobs.

Their products and services extend to 946,435 consumers or 43 percent of the province's population.

The province has 35,897 small and medium enterprises, making up 33 percent of those registered in the whole of Central Luzon.

Enterprises are considered micro if their capital is less than P3 million; small, up to P15 million; and medium, up to P100 million.

SMEs in Bulacan contributed P14 billion or 36 percent of the total investments in the region.

These generated 148,895 jobs or 34 percent of the region's total employment that year.

In the league of active exporters are at least 149 enterprises or 24.15 percent of the region's total SMEs.

Manufacturing textiles and leather items, furniture, jewelry and gifts and house decors and mostly food products, these enterprises are spread over the province's 22 towns and two cities.

To support micro, cottage and small entrepreneurs, the provincial government opened in September 2005 the Bulacan Packaging and Toll Packing Center.

It provides label design, toll packaging, packaging materials and consultancy services.

This center is at the frontline of "Tatak Bulakenyo," which is the seal of quality for services and products of the province.

Agricultural development has been boosted through P40.4 million worth of support to farmers.

Farmers planting high value commercial crops have earned an additional income of P23,000 for every 500 square meters, De la Cruz said.

The provincial government went into investment promotions through outbound missions, trade fairs, *bayanihan* equity assistance marketing program, Pistang Bulacan sa America and the passage of the Provincial Investments Incentives Code.

GOVERNOR Josie cleans up a drainage canal at the Bulacan provincial capitol.

"Consistent with our belief that our people is our greatest resource, we invested in our young and developed programs to strengthen our families," she said, adding that 174,324 youths have availed themselves of livelihood and employment training while 51,671 others have attended capability-building workshops.

Backbone

The education and health sectors have undergone significant reforms.

The Project Joint Systems Improvement in Education, for instance, has raised mathematical skills in computation and comprehension from both 39.40 percent in 2000 to 85.99 percent and 75.15 percent, respectively, in 2004-2005.

The Alay Paglingap expanded the health insurance coverage to the poorest of the poor so that they would not be deprived of medical care.

De la Cruz harnesses all these through the BNFE's "cloverleaf strategy."

She said this puts together the packing business sector, trucking management and operation sector, cold storage sector and wholesale market sector.

At the center of these is the "extensive application of information technology."

Altogether, these will cater to the retail network, export-import business, human resource management and exhibition center.

She said preparations for the BNFE are focused now on the strengthening of cooperatives and SMEs.

The support of the provincial government is not lacking.

De la Cruz's younger brother, Joselito Mendoza, is the current governor.

In her time, she said "the programs were done more by the private sector. *Sa akin*, direction, support *lang*. (I just give direction, support)."

DE LA CRUZ takes part in a feeding program.

Underrated mining giant flexes muscles

From page B3-1

granted," Brown said.

In the Visayas, Philex is currently reevaluating the Bulawan gold deposit located in Sipalay, Negros Occidental with a view to reopen the mine's operations.

Exploration to find extension of the deposit is also programmed.

The mine has produced 465,766 equivalent ounces of gold from 1996 to 2002 and still has a current resource base of over 25 million tons at 1.9 g/t gold.

Mineralized and potentially significant gold resources exist at seven other gold prospects close to Bulawan and will be the subject of an aggressive exploration starting this year. Drilling at the Nagtalay prospect, 4 km to the southwest of Bulawan, will start this month.

A promising porphyry copper-gold target, the Bulog prospect, 5 km southeast of the known Sipalay mine, is also expected to be explored this year.

Meanwhile, Brown said the Boyongan deposit located in Surigao del Norte, a Philex-Anglo American joint venture, is now in the prefeasibility stage.

Another joint venture property within the granted permit, the Lascogon Project is a Philex-FEC Resources joint venture also located in Surigao del Norte where exploration of its Carlin-like target is currently being undertaken

More targets

Two more targets within the Lascogon Project are also scheduled to be evaluated this year.

According to Brown, Philex is also currently evaluating several properties in Mindanao.

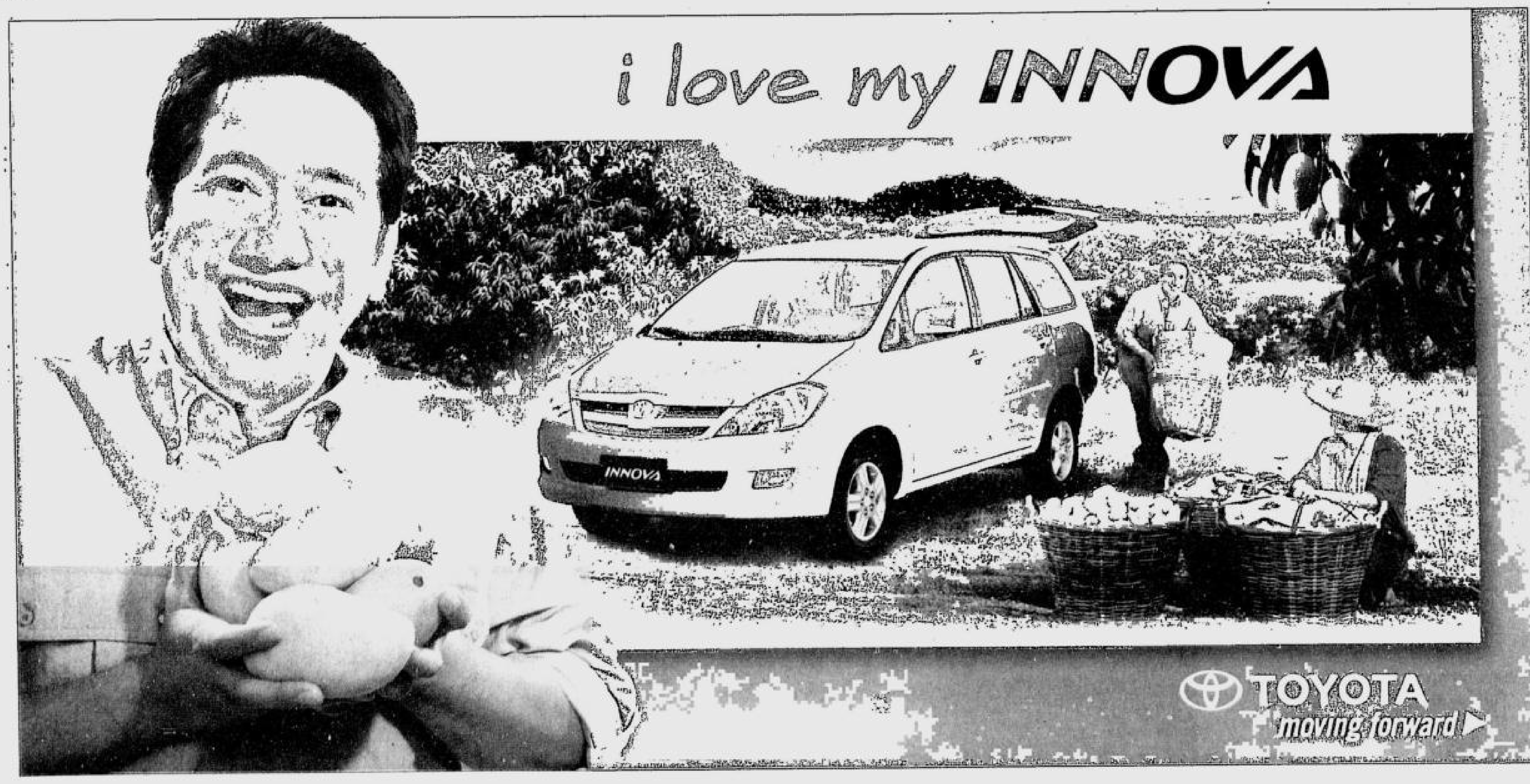
Specifically, a wholly owned property with an area of approximately 10,000 hectares with an exploration permit application located in Surigao del Sur is scheduled to be evaluated in 2008.

The company placed under care and maintenance its Sibutad Project in Zamboanga del Norte a few years back but will continue to do exploration in the area while maintaining the facilities and its environment.

"The company's priorities remain to expand known deposits, to assess the known targets on its properties systematically and where appropriate, continue to investigate and acquire properties of merit," Brown said.

Trading at only five times its price-earnings multiple for 2007 and three times its ratio for next year, the stock is easily the most underrated mining firm on the PSE today.

If the company's ventures succeed, however, it may not stay that way for long.



Disturbing tax proposals

By René G. Bañez
Contributor

I AM WRITING THIS TO DISTURB our leaders in the executive and legislative branches of government, as well as our leaders in the private sector, because unless we entertain a holistic and out-of-the-box solution to address the continuing budget deficit, we cannot make poverty history and move the country forward at a faster pace.

RP's current tax system

The country's current tax system can be characterized in two simple words: Complicated and uncompetitive. It is complicated because it is difficult to comply with and enforce. It is uncompetitive because the tax rates are high compared with other East Asian countries and the tax costs are unpredictable.

If we go back 40 years ago and describe the tax system then, it is simply global. A global tax system is a tax system where all types of income are combined and subjected to a single rate or to graduated rates.

In other words, both ordinary income arising from employment, business and practice of profession, and passive income like interest income from savings and time deposits, capital gains from sale of real property or shares of stock are all reported in one income tax return, and one set of tax rates is applied on the tax base.

At that time, business, commercial and personal transactions and dealings were very simple.

Today, business structures and dealings have become very complex. Corporate organizations have different layers of shareholdings and engage in different types of business transactions. Likewise, personal individual transactions have become as complex as businesses.

Hence, the difficulty of both reporting on the part of taxpayers and monitoring on the part of tax officers of the various types of incomes earned.

Because of these difficulties and complexities, the national government through the years, had passed myriad tax laws to capture the new and various types of income, but in the process have changed the tax landscape of the country from being purely global to a mixed global and schedular tax system.

A schedular tax system is another tax system that treats different types of income differently, making them subject to different rates and at different tax bases, either at gross or net.

The 20-percent final withholding tax on interest income arising from savings and time deposits is an example of a schedular type of tax. This was introduced to capture the interest income of depositors who are protected by the Bank Secrecy Law.

Single and final tax rates were also introduced on various types of capital gains like sale of shares of stocks and real properties classified as capital assets. Minimum corporate income tax was also introduced to obligate consistently losing companies to pay a minimum amount of tax.

Ad valorem or specific tax is another area of taxation that has become very controversial because government and the industry players cannot simply agree on an acceptable tax.

Tax laws were not limited to changing tax policies but also tax administration. The creation of the large taxpayer's office as dictated by IMF is one of the most noticeable.

The control of the filing of tax fraud cases with the courts being transferred from the BIR to DOJ and the Lateral Attrition Law were the latest additions to the tax administration changes.

To date, we have more than 300 tax laws enacted by virtue of Presidential Decrees and Republic Acts. While some of these laws have contributed in improving the processes of reporting and monitoring, which resulted in the increase in revenue collection on certain types of tax, on the whole, it only complicated the tax system and therefore tax compliance and tax enforcement have become more difficult.

Capacity of the revenue agency

When we look at the capacity of the revenue agency, unavoidably we must examine its resources and institutional competency.

Historically, if we look at the annual budget of the BIR, it is less than one percent of its revenue collections. This is not commensurate to its gargantuan task of collecting the bulk of total revenue collections.

There were even occasions in the past where the annual fees paid to SGS are much more than the annual budget of the BIR.

If we use this as a measurement of capacity, then the annual budget of the revenue agency is grossly inadequate. We will draw the same conclusion if we compare it with the budget of revenue agencies in the Asian region.

Our complicated tax system has affected the tax processes and consequently impacted on the institutional competency of the tax agency. Because of its inadequate budget and certain limitations attached to it, the agency is unable to get the necessary tools to improve its tax efficiency.

For the same reason, technical training is not also a priority. The regular training that the agency provides is not the type of training that really enhances the technical competencies of revenue officers and improves their effectiveness. Because of the salary standardization in government, the agency is not an employer of choice of new graduates.

Thus, the agency is unable to replenish the core competencies of its present workforce. The lack of resources, the declining number of motivated and competent workforce and the absence of accountability measurement system have affected and will continue to affect the institutional capacity of the agency.

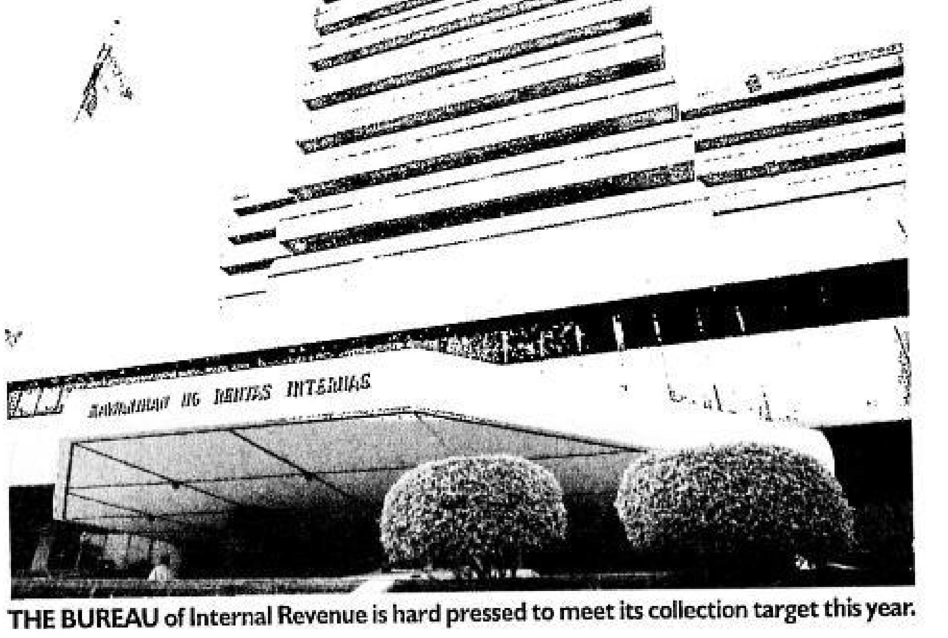
Where do we go from here?

Tax income accounts for almost 85 percent of our national revenue and the BIR collects almost 80 percent of this tax revenue. Of the 20 percent that the BoeC collects, 60 percent are internal revenue taxes like VAT. If the government wants to improve its revenue, it has to improve its tax system.

The tax system has two facets: Tax administration and tax policy. Tax administration pertains to the process of collecting taxes and tax policy defines what taxes to collect. The BIR and the BOC are responsible for tax administration and the Department of Finance is responsible for identifying tax policy. Overhauling the tax system means restructuring tax administration and reforming tax policy.

Taxation has two phases namely: Compliance and enforcement. To have an efficient and effective tax system, a balance of the two is essential. However, since 98 percent of internal revenue collections come from voluntary compliance, the focus should be more on compliance.

The simpler the tax system, the easier it is for taxpayers to comply with and also the easier for tax administrators to implement. Conversely, the more complicated it is, the more difficult it is to comply with and implement.



THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is hard pressed to meet its collection target this year.

Addressing the continuing budget deficit of the country requires a new vision and approach.

Unless we fine tune our tax system to raise revenue in an environment of changing technology, growing globalization and increasing complexity, we will never be able to ensure a sustainable and continuous flow of revenue to meet government requirements. Equally important is to consider the behavior of Filipino taxpayers and local culture.

How do we reform the tax system? First, is to identify the principles that will characterize the new tax system. I propose considering five internationally accepted principles of good tax policy that have been adopted by developed economies. The five principles are simplicity, fairness, enforceability, predictability and sustainability.

1. Simplicity—the tax law should be simple so that taxpayers understand the rules and can comply with them correctly and in a cost-efficient manner.

2. Fairness—similarly situated taxpayers should be taxed similarly but equitably.

3. Enforceability—the tax law should be enforceable and can easily be implemented. A tax law is good only when it is enforced.

4. Predictability—the tax system should enable the government to determine how much tax revenue will be collected and when they will be collected.

5. Sustainability—the tax system should be capable to collect the desired revenue for government for a much longer period of time.

Foundation

These principles should serve as the foundation in redesigning the new tax system and rewriting the new tax code.

Secondly, organize a group from both the public and private sectors to jointly undertake this monumental project.

Addressing this problem requires the involvement and participation of other key stakeholders. The voice and the views of the private sector must be heard and considered because they are the sector that would be mostly affected and covered by the changes.

Third, once a new tax code is crafted and developed for legislation, the tax agency should also develop new tax processes, and rules and regulations to make it operational. The success of any legislation is in its implementation and enforcement. Better and improved tax compliance will materialize only if tax requirements, processes and rules are simple and fair.

Finally, reinvent the tax agency to provide meaningful organizational support to the changes and improve the delivery of tax services to taxpayers.

We need a new tax agency that is taxpayer-focused. We need to modernize tax administration and possibly make it independent to enable it to make its own decisions.

Unless we address the core of the problem, budget surplus will never become a reality.

The author is a professor of Taxation and Corporate Governance at the Ateneo Law School and former Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

RAPU RAPU Processing Inc. (RRPI), a subsidiary of Lafayette Philippines Inc. (LPI), formally presented its ISO 14001:2004 certificate to Environment Secretary Lito Atienza (2nd from left). The certification recognizes the project's environmental management system (EMS) as being at par with international standards. With Atienza are company officials led by LPI chair and president Carlos G. Dominguez (right).

Cisco targets new markets

By Riza T. Olchondra

CISCO PHILIPPINES IS SET TO put more focus on nontraditional market sectors such as tourism, real estate and construction.

"The tourism industry is an exciting new market for us," Cisco Philippines manager Luichi Robles said, citing a recent study from the Wallace Business Forum as basis for the firm's prospects.

The study projects a growth in tourist arrivals of 14 percent a year and over $1 billion in investments in hotels and resorts for this year alone.

To take advantage of the opportunity, Cisco Philippines will introduce the Cisco Connected Real Estate (CCRE) solution for the TREC sectors.

The CCRE, specifically tailored for individuals and companies that create and operate real estate, positions the "network as the platform," a concept that is expected to enable firms to increase revenues, reduce costs and improve shareholder value.

"This intelligent building infrastructure creates an unprecedented opportunity for improved services, enhanced processes, and cost-effective operations," Robles said.

Meanwhile, Cisco continues to offer top-of-the-line networking solutions with its Data Center and Unified Communications solutions.

The Data Center architecture places more of the workload onto the network through consolidation, virtualization and automation technologies.

It also collapses the functions of standalone devices into modules to help customers save on rack space, cabling, port consumption and support costs in addition to reducing power consumption.

Asia-Pacific managing director for Data Center Sales Andre Smit said Cisco was working on its first Green Data Center project in the Philippines.

"It may eventually be a showcase for a secure connectivity that allows rich collaboration between two companies of different geographies, different industries and with different business processes," he said.

Unified Communications is another focus area for Cisco. The system is a suite of voice, data and video products and applications specifically designed to help organizations of all sizes to communicate more effectively.

It also allows customers to integrate their communication system with their IT infrastructure to make their businesses perform more effectively.

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Farmers now net surfers

Learning through the Internet now within easy reach

By Amy R. Remo

GONE ARE THE DAYS when Filipino farmers went about their work with bare feet, looking scrawny in stained, tattered clothes.

As today's farmer starts to ride on the technology wave, he now tinkers with modern equipment and is slowly acquiring knowledge through the information-rich cyberspace.

Various farming technologies have already been made available.

This is evident in some of the 4.8 million farms around the country, covering about 9.7 million hectares of land.

Internet programs

Farmers can also freely make use of the Department of Agriculture's "Open Academy for Philippine Agriculture."

Then there are the "Mobile Internet Bus," which is used to deliver online services, and "Farmers' Information and Technology Services Centers."

Now, farmers are slowly reaping gains, most notable of which are the educational benefits.

Just last month, 17 agricultural extension workers and farmers graduated from the one-and-a-half month online training course on Minus-One-Element Technique (MOET), an easy way to diagnose nutrients deficiency in the soil.

Implemented by the Philippine Rice Research Institute, the online course is a component project of the Open Academy for Philippine Agriculture Program.

Opapa is a network of government institutions that provide education, training and communication in agriculture using ICTs.

Unlike the traditional training program, the e-learning project uses both conventional and electronic media such as online modules, forums and chats, instant messaging, and field practicum to teach farmers.

The participants, mostly from the Science City of Muñoz and Cabanatuan City, completed the course by attending a series of online courses and discussions, as well as conducting an actual MOET setup.

"What they liked most was the interaction with fellow AEWs and online expert," e-learning coordinator Ronan G. Zagado said.

Open academy

The e-learning modules served as learning materials, with guide questions posted on the site for students to answer.

PhilRice said this learning format is expected to enhance real-time online discussions among students coming from different places and an expert.

The online forum allows students to leave questions for the expert to answer at any given time.

Meanwhile, a field activity tracks the application of knowledge gained from the online course.

Participants are expected to evaluate the e-learning program—from content to system operations—to improve the e-learning project, which will be offered regularly next year, as part of the PhilRice Training Program.

Aside from MOET, another course, "How to make the Maligaya Rice Hull Stove," is also accessible at www.openacademy.ph.

The Opapa Advisory Council had already recommended that this system should be used as the common e-learning platform not only for rice but also for other crops.

PhilRice Executive Director Leocadio S. Sebastian earlier said that the online course aims to provide a learning option for farmers, cooperatives and other various farmer-groups.

"We understand that [farmers] lack the resources to attend our onsite training programs," Sebastian said. "With this e-learning project, we hope to facilitate learning at a minimal cost, despite geographical disparity."

Increasing productivity

For its part, the DA has also been making good use of the Internet and modern technology to help increase agricultural productivity and raise farmers' income.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap earlier said the DA plans to put up electronic kiosks and create an e-portal system to connect various computer centers, which would be set up around the country.

In these centers, farmers can check market prices of their commodities and seek business partnerships using the Internet.

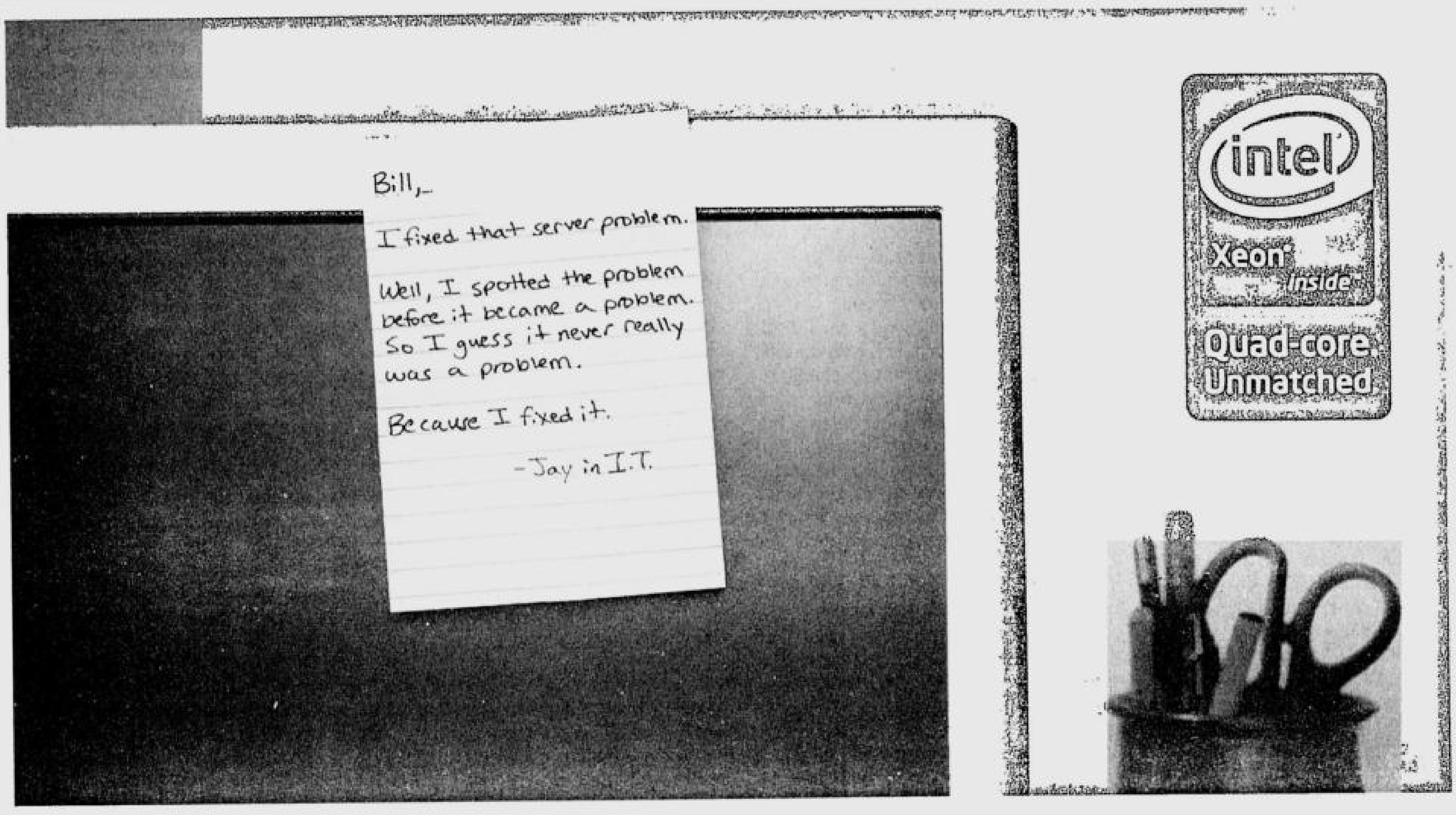
"These kiosks should be services driven so that farmers would use them," Yap said. "If a farmer asks, can we get help? Can we talk and reach out to other farmers? Can we reach new markets through this? The answers must be yes."

The DA, Microsoft Corp. and the Department of Science and Technology met early this year to explore possible collaborations in the hope of replicating the success of China's Information and Communications Technology partnership with Microsoft.

Microsoft is also set to discuss how it can partner with Opapa and other ICT projects for Philippine agriculture.

"Microsoft can greatly help efforts to modernize Philippine agriculture by providing computers, licensed Microsoft software and training for computer programmers," Yap said.

Ultimately, the modernization of Philippine agriculture could very well translate to higher incomes for Filipino farmers and better living conditions for their families.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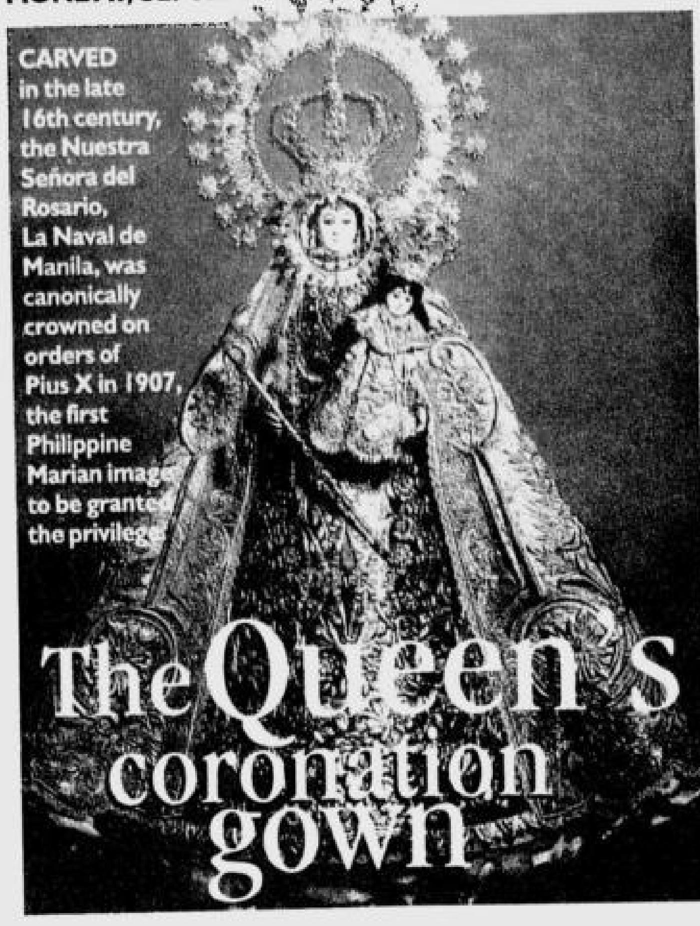

CARVED in the late 16th century, the Nuestra Señora del Rosario, La Naval de Manila, was canonically crowned on orders of Pius X in 1907, the first Philippine Marian image to be granted the privilege

The Queen's coronation gown

NENA Bernales and a retinue of *bordaderos* and *bordaderas* working on the intricate embroidery of the Virgin's cape, which is 12 ft long and 7 ft wide

La Naval gets a resplendent new gown for the centennial of her papal coronation

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Text and photos by Gino U. Marasigan
Contributor

ON OCT. 4, THE PHILIPPINE Church and the entire Dominican family will celebrate the centennial of the canonical coronation of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, La Naval de Manila.

For this once-in-a-lifetime occasion, a very special dress is being made since February and is now on its final stages of embroidery. It will be ready for the commemoration of 100 years of the Filipinos' love and devotion for the Queen of the Holy Rosary.

On Oct. 5, 1907, His Holiness Pope Pius X declared the venerated image was a beacon of faith and hope for the Filipino people, and recognized the miraculous cures and favors granted to her devotees.

On that day, a huge crowd gathered in various places at Plaza de Isabel II, Paseo de Magallanes, Plaza de Santo Tomas, Plaza de Santo Domingo, and Intendencia in Intramuros—to witness the canonical coronation. It was the first papally approved coronation of a Marian icon in the history of the Philippine Church.

For that occasion, the image wore a magnificent gold-embroidered cape with the signature papaya-leaf design and a gilt-silver *plancha* (frontal) which is still in use today.

The robes, offerings from *el pueblo filipino*, were locally crafted using flat metallic and bullion threads from Europe.

In an atelier in the metropolis is an elaborately designed and resplendently crafted dress being given the final touches by a team of 10 sewers and needlepoint workers.

After almost seven months of intense and intricate needlework under the supervision of the *bordadera*, Nena Bernales, interweaving vines, palm fronds, and garlands of roses have come to life.

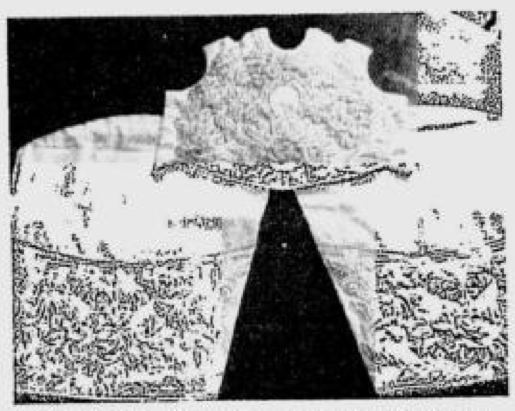
The original design by Arthur Munar left virtually no empty space on the basic lamé. To distinguish one floral figure from the other elements of the design, Bernales used a mix of metallic and genuine Indian gold *inuod* threads (because of its worm-like appearance).

Millimeter by millimeter, thread by thread, the dress is being fashioned to perfection.

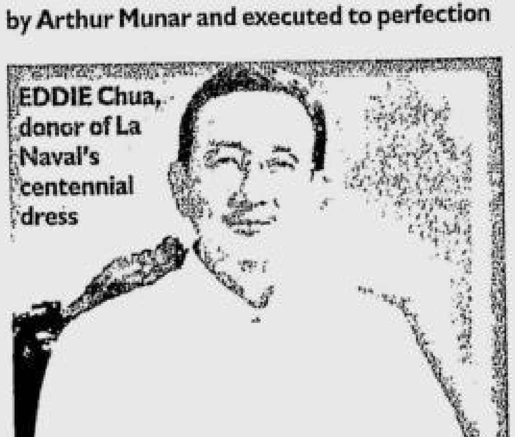
The exquisite apparel is a gift to Our Lady of La Naval by the family of Eddie Chua. Through the years, many benefactors and Marian devotees have offered gifts to Our Lady in the form of heirloom jewelry or gala dresses, as tokens of gratitude.

Some gifts easily come to mind, such as the Carrascoso dress, also known as the *numero dos*, which was worn in the 1950s and

THE QUEEN'S/ C2



THE VIRGIN'S blouse and sleeves designed by Arthur Munar and executed to perfection



EDDIE Chua, donor of La Naval's centennial dress

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PRIDE OF PLACE
Augusto Villalon

Escape city blues at Montecito and Hacienda Escudero

Two new developments highlight modern Filipino architecture

TWO UPSCALE DEVELOPMENTS TO watch are Hacienda Escudero near San Pablo City in Quezon, and Montecito in Canlubang, Laguna, both outstanding but each demonstrating a different approach to offering quiet getaways from city life.

Hacienda Escudero offers the reassuring comfort of Filipino tradition.

Covering the area around Villa Escudero, the venerable tourist destination that successfully pioneered the concept of an all-Filipino resort, the mixed-use development retains the all-Filipino flavor that has made the Escudero resort so popular.

The Escudero family and Landco Pacific are jointly developing 415 hectares of plantation land into a residential resort community that takes its cues from the resort's down-home Pinoy charm.

In the halcyon days of the 1930s Philippine Commonwealth era, the plantation was recognized as probably the most progressive, innovative coconut plantation in the country. So forward-thinking was the Escudero patriarch that he installed one of the first hydroelectric plants in the country, harnessing the lakes in the hacienda property to produce power for mechanizing agricultural processing.

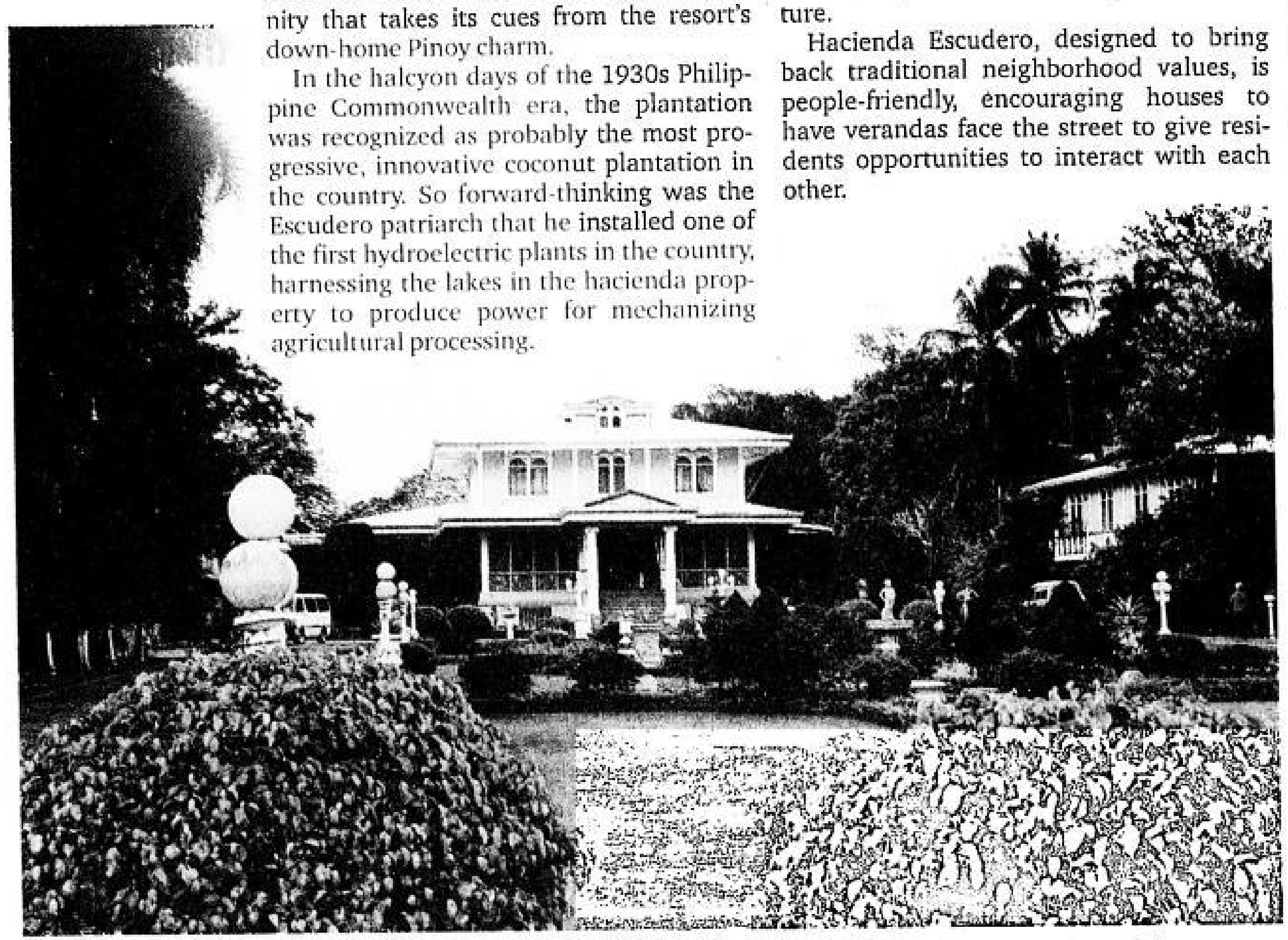
The modern development takes its identity from the Escudero family vision and their legacy.

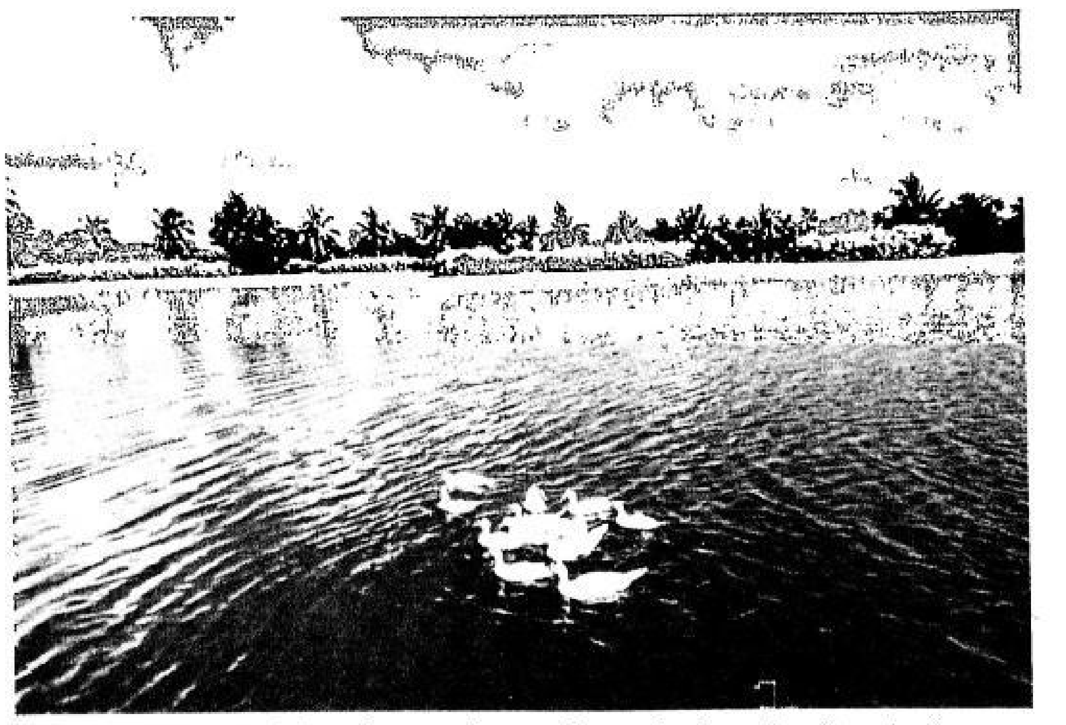
When completed, Hacienda Escudero will have hotels, spas, medical facilities, shopping and restaurant facilities, and leisure facilities that include a golf course, water park and botanical gardens winding throughout the development.

Completely 21st-century Filipino in attitude, new houses are to be designed in Modern-Filipino style, contemporary architecture based on surviving plantation houses from the 1930s Commonwealth era that are typical to the San Pablo area.

Together with Monterrazas de Cebu, another Landco development, Hacienda Escudero is one of the few new developments that champions Modern-Filipino architecture.

Hacienda Escudero, designed to bring back traditional neighborhood values, is people-friendly, encouraging houses to have verandas face the street to give residents opportunities to interact with each other.


Villa Escudero, a plantation house in the 1930s Philippine Commonwealth-era style, is the centerpiece of the new Hacienda Escudero development in Quezon province.


AT MONTECITO in Canlubang, Laguna, the central attraction is a series of large bodies of water that irrigate the development's landscaping and keep temperature at cool level.

Walking is another way to get neighbors together. Parks and forests ring clusters of houses, all linked by pedestrian walkways.

Getting around by water is another feature. Choice Hacienda Escudero properties either have their own access to the freshwater lakes or open up to specially built waterways, allowing construction of moorings within lakeside lots for privately owned boats.

Laguna sanctuary

An abundance of water and limitless greenery is the first impression at Montecito, an upscale sanctuary slightly over an hour's drive from Manila.

A portion of the vast Canlubang Sugar Estate has been turned into a development of generously sized lots surrounded by luxurious greenways, roads, lakes and recreational areas that create not only a strong feel of peace and serenity but also provide a powerful connection to nature.

The environment at Montecito is definitely green. Nature is so important that approximately 50 percent of its area has been given over to communal open space.

A spring originating in Tagaytay Ridge, called Matang Tubig (Eye of the Water), runs through the property, supplying water for residents, landscape irrigation and powering a mini hydroelectric plant which generates electricity to light up the streets until ultimately feeding into a large, fish-stocked lake in the property.

Residents are offered the opportunity to recharge from the pressures of city life in a tightly guarded, secure environment with unpolluted air and an intimate, landscaped panorama.

From the height of its rolling hills, the Montecito perspective stretches past a panorama of its designer landscapes to include the vistas of Mt. Makiling, Tagaytay Ridge and Laguna de Bay.

Intimacy among neighbors is achieved by the low-density development, where a total area of 60 ha accommodates only 250 houses, offering residents rare access to space beyond the boundaries of their properties.

Majority of Montecito lots are designed with a border of open space on all sides. No houses are ever adjacent to each other. Grass courtyards, greenways, and "open *salas*" effectively buffer houses from each other and provide a bonus of shared public areas for neighbors.

Model houses, designed around a series of courtyards that allow indoor and outdoor spaces to integrate, are surrounded by manicured lawns, banks of flowering plants, and lush fruit-bearing trees all grown in Montecito's on-site private plant and tree nursery.

Montecito is the place for its residents to recharge themselves.

Whether it is high-end exclusivity at Montecito or the comforting familiarity of Pinoy traditions at Hacienda Escudero, lifestyle choices are increasing for those seeking refuge from the stresses of city life.

Visit www.haciendaescudero.com and www.montecito.com.ph

E-mail comments to pride.place@gmail.com

Jun Alfon mounts homecoming show in Davao

JUN ALFON, ACCLAIMED for his exotic and colorful depiction of Mindanao tribes, comes back to his roots, Davao, to mount a homecoming one-man show, his 20th, "Mystical and Magical Mindanao IV."

Opening ceremonies will be held Sept. 20 at Mi Casita Tu Casita Art Gallery (owned by Mary Ann Valverde), Dianne Building, Quimpo Boulevard, Davao.

Cutting the ribbon will be three generations of prominent art lovers: Patricia Montemayor, her daughter Maryanne "Baby" Montemayor, and granddaughter Marga Montemayor Nograles.

"Mystical and Magical Mindanao IV" will feature a collection of richly portrayed lyrical paintings of the tribal people of the South.

This collection eloquently combines imagination and interpretation as it captures the mystical soul of southern tribes such as the Tibolis, Bagobos, Higawnons, and Maranaos.

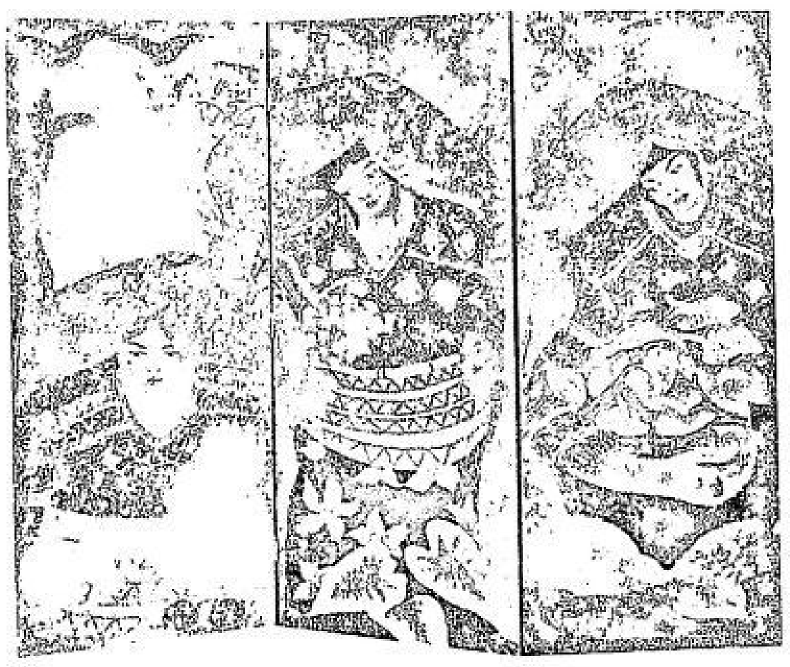
"Although they are almost forgotten, they are as important as we are," says Alfon. "I capture them on canvas so that others may know they are breathing, walking beings—albeit generally unknown—with whom we coexist. Their warmth and naturalness move me every time I am among them."

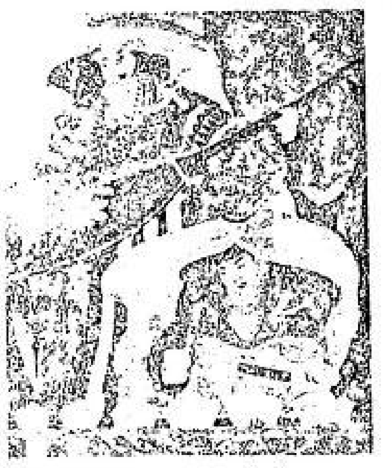
After three successive sell-out exhibits in Manila, Alfon decided to bring "Mystical and Magical Mindanao IV" to the place where he grew up and his subjects live.

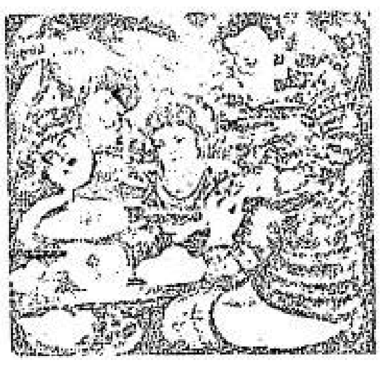
In this exhibit, Alfon characteristically demonstrates depth in capturing the indigenous people's inner strength, love for colors, and capacity to reach out to others.

Alfon has been featured in art books such as Encyclopedia of Philippine Art by Marlene Aguilar; "20th-Century Contemporary Art," and "Gallery of the Philippines" by Dick Valenciano.

To keep the theme for posterity, his paintings will be captured in prose and photographs in a book written by four-time Palanca awardee Grace Dacanay-Chong. It will be launched before the year ends.




"MYSTICAL and Magical Mindanao IV" consists of oil renditions of Mindanao folk scenes and motifs.



The Queen's coronation gown

From page C1

THE NINO'S bib and gown

fabricated in Spain using gold threads.

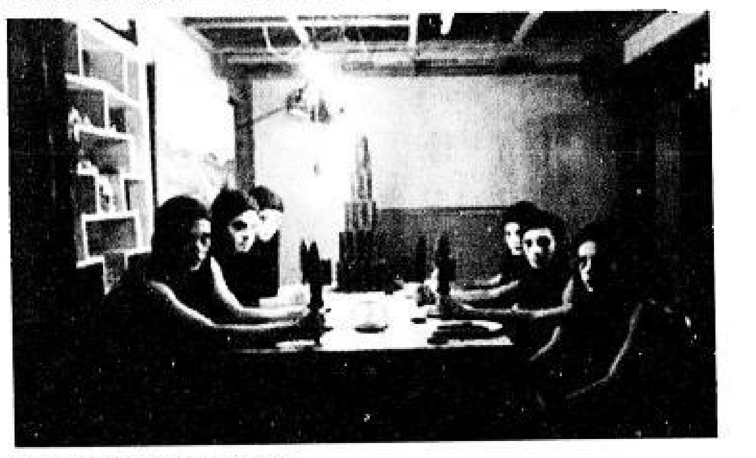
In the 1960s, a quite unique dress was made in Vietnam, using an Oriental motif, and was worn by the image as a *pambahay* after the October festivities.

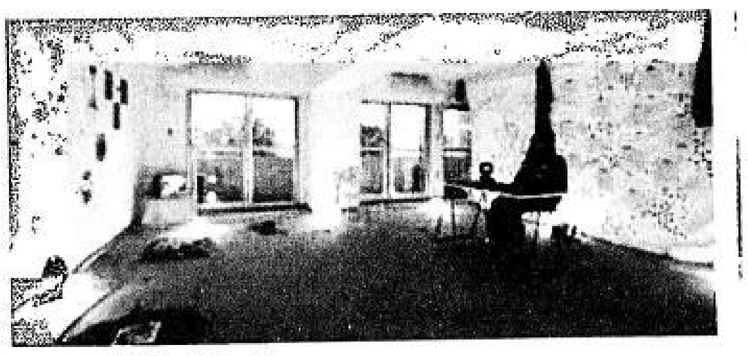
A pink-and-blue dress, given by the family of Dr. Rolando and Nancy Mendoza, is usually worn by the Virgin in May.

A complete ensemble using gold thread for the blouse and skirt was given by Dr. Joey and Chary Sollano in 1993.

For Bernales and her family, the opportunity to sew the Virgin's dress for such an important occasion as the centennial of the canonical coronation is not just an honor and a privilege, but truly the fulfillment of a lifetime dream. As a teenage girl, she chose to stay indoors doing her delicate *gantsilyo* edgings for her mother's pillowcases, half-hoping that one day she, too, would have the chance to offer something beautiful to the Virgen de La Naval.

For details of the activities to mark the Centennial of the Canonical Coronation of La Naval next month, call Santo Domingo Church at 7126271-72. Donations are still being accepted.


"BASTOS con Diablitos"


"DISASTER but Disco"

Artist's talk-performance at St. Scholastica

THE LOPEZ MEMORIAL MUseum and the University of the Philippines' College of Mass Communications (UP CMC) present the third "Obra Maestra Mamera" series, featuring performance artist Yason Banal Sept. 15, 2 p.m., at Sr. Caridad Barrion Hall, St. Scholastica's College in Manila.

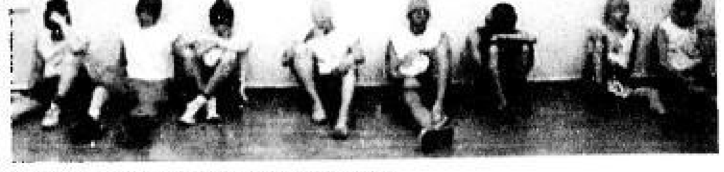
His talk, subtitled "An Experimental Lecture Probing Ronald McDonald, Metrosexuality and the Museum," is a mix of artist slide show, lecture and performance.

Banal's works have explored the idea of icons—how they are created, how they aspire and survive. The artist himself said, "Ceasing to be themselves, people who have become icons eventually become concepts, the ideas fueled by a life of its own, particularly visual culture."

What these concepts are and the visual culture these create are some of the things tackled in this talk cum performance.

The lecture complements the ongoing exhibition at the Lopez Museum, "Dime a Dozen," which runs until Sept. 22.

Free entrance but reservations required since seating is limited. For more information, contact Fanny at 6312417 or visit www.lopezmuseum.org.ph.


"LEGEND of Sleepwalking Tricks"

VISUAL ARTS

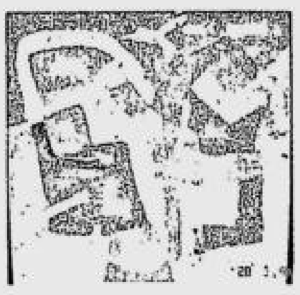
Francisco at Philamlife

Carlos "Totong" Francisco II presents his 7th solo exhibit, "Mind's Eye: Festal Moods," Sept. 14-28 in PhilamLife Building, UN Avenue, Manila. The exhibit will showcase 25 paintings on a number of themes with variable sizes, mostly done in acrylic on canvas. Call 5216300.

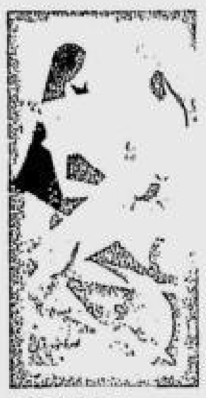
3 artists at Crucible

The Crucible Gallery (4/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City) presents a three-man show "Public Scene," Sept. 11-17, featuring the works of LJ Ablola, Jepoy Soriano and Nile Pobadora. The artists will stress in their works the appreciation of communal living. Call 6356061.

Maia and Bautista at Ayala



"BLEND," by Aaron Bautista



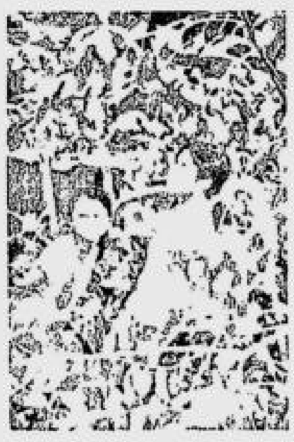
"SUMMER Dance," by Maia Bautista

"Forms and Spaces," a collaborative exhibit of Maia and Aaron Bautista, runs on Sept. 13-27 in ArtistSpace (2/F, Glass Wing, Ayala Museum, Greenbelt Park, Makati). The show focuses on the vibrant passages of colors and lines that burst out of the canvas surface. Forms are easily perceived and spaces are daringly manipulated. Call 7577117 to 21 local 31. 15.

Tanay artists at MOA

Tanay-based artists will exhibit their works in Artes Orientes Gallery (2/F, Entertainment Center, North Wing Bldg., SM Mall of Asia). Dubbed "Sa Paligid Natin" features realistic renderings of breathtaking landscapes, orchid gardens, still lifes and the artists' familiar surroundings. Participating artists include Howard Jao, Leo Meneses, Bandi Bati, Manny Sinquenco and Conrado Bonifacio. Call 09175230877 or 5560590. The exhibit runs until Sept. 15.

Cobangbang at Mag:net



"SARAP Mamitas," by Howard Jao

Lena Cobangbang's new works will be on display at Mag:net Gallery (Agcor Bldg., 335 Katipunan Ave., QC) Sept. 11-25. In "All This Useless Beauty," the objects are stances of beautified objects, making them more appalling at the same time ruined by disruption of details all over the objects; somehow we go back to the deductive process of making things simple, forgetting what is. Call 9293191.

Dolls at Museo Pambata

The Nitang Pantig-Cruz Doll Collection is now on display at the Children in the Global Village section of Museo Pambata (Roxas Boulevard and South Drive, Manila). Donated by Dr. Cecilio Goquingco Cruz's family, the collection showcases over 100 dolls of different nations, as well as brass and cast-iron miniatures. Call 5231797.

Pacquing at Finale

Inspired by the superhero drawings of his son—who, at six years old, is oddly aware of how to physicalize extraordinary strength on a page—Bernardo Pacquing comes up with a suite of works of real people who orbit his life, transfiguring and abstracting them to highlight "the extraordinary things they do." Dubbed simply as "People I Know" on view at the Finale Art File (4/F, LaO Center, Pasay Road and Makati Avenue, Makati), the exhibit mythologizes his subjects as superheroes of their own, towering presences who project an aura of invulnerability. On view until Sept. 26. Call 8132310 or visit www.finaleartfile.com.

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Winner of the Enrique P. Ostrea, Jr. Research Competition (Maternal Division). Presented in the 27th International Congress of Pathophysiology of Pregnancy, November 5-7, 1995.

Published in "Increasingly Safe and Successful Pregnancies". Proceedings on the 27th International Congress on Pathoshysiology of Pregnancy, pp. 279-276, by Elsevier Science B.V. Nov. 1994 to May 1995

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Pilita and Martin Bring Back Timeless Classics at the SM Mall of Asia

From September 7-16, the SM Mall of Asia turns back the hands of time as it stages Timeless Classics Festival, a fitting tribute to grandparents as they celebrate their special day.

Timeless Classics Festival highlights include a special concert from the ageless Asia's Queen of Songs, entitled "Pilita In Concert" on September 15, 7PM at the Main Mall Atrium.

Pilita Corrales graces the SM Mall of Asia stage for the first time with her repertoire of Spanish, English and Filipino love songs that will surely evoke romantic memories from the mature audiences.

Joining Pilita is The Wing Duo, Angie Yoingco and Nikki Ross, known for their dance and comic routines that have spiced up their successful shows both here and abroad.

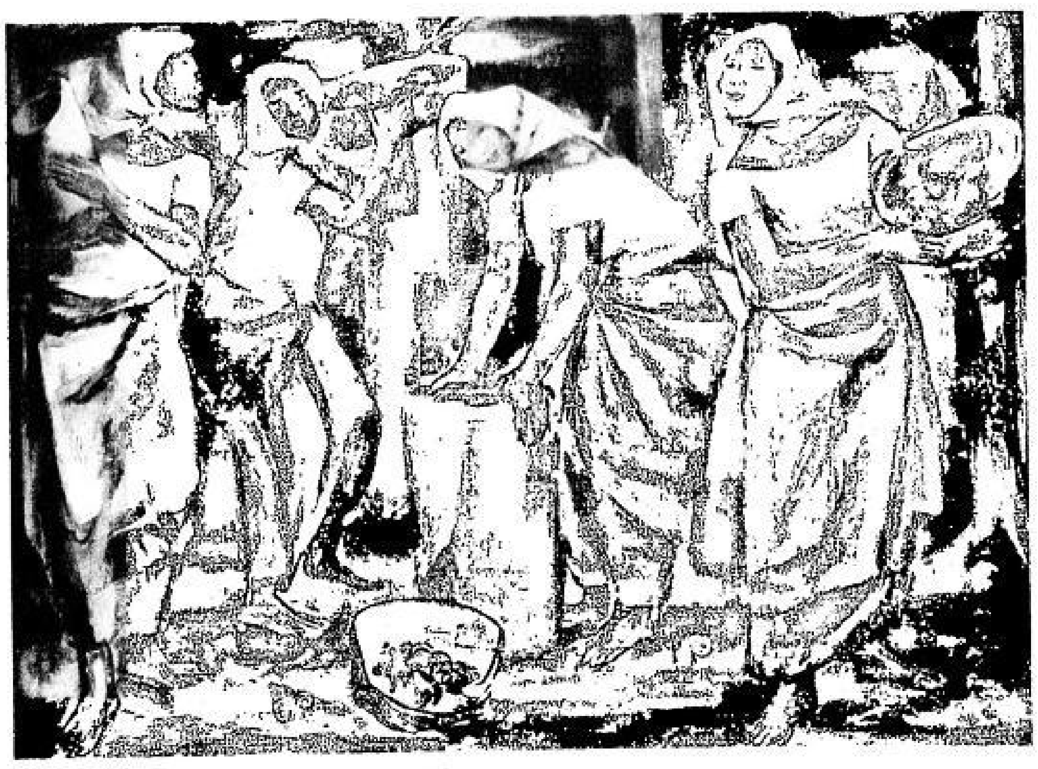
On September 16, it's the turn of the country's top balladeer and concert king to take shoppers down memory lane as he launches his latest album, "Milestones." Marking his 25th year in the music industry, Martin will perform selected songs from "Milestones" in a free concert at 5PM at the Main Mall Atrium.

Shoppers will be serenaded with pieces from a collection of the best ballads spanning 25 years of Martin's romance repertoire. "Milestones" by EMI Phils. brings back the hits of Barry Manilow's "Somewhere Down The Road," Jose Mari Chan's "Beautiful Girl," Ella Mae Saison's "Till My Heartaches End," Aiza Seguerra's "Pagdating Ng Panahon," Jimmy Bondoc's "Let Me Be The One" and more of the songs you want to hear all over again. Martin's album tour caps the mall's biggest sale, the "Big, Big Sale of Asia."

There will be several other exciting events such as the Hotwheels Fashion Launch, presenting the hottest gear in town from the world's coolest company on September 14-16 at the Music Hall.

The SM Mall of Asia's Timeless Classic Festival is truly a grand treat for the young and old.

Sotheby's auction set for Sept. 16



"FRUIT Harvest" by Anita Magsaysay-Ho

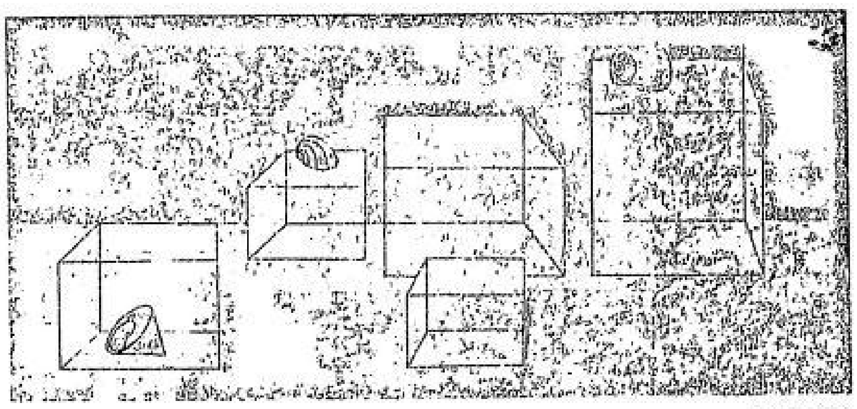
TWENTY-SIX ARTWORKS FROM 13 artists mark the Philippine participation in the forthcoming Sotheby's auction of Modern and Contemporary Southeast Asian Paintings. It is slated for Sept. 16, at the Main Ballroom of Regent of Singapore at 1 Cuscaden Road.

This auction is a much-awaited auction with Sotheby's offering 176 lots from the masters of Southeast Asia and top contemporary artists. For this auction, there are three Amorsolos, two paintings by Anita Magsaysay Ho, one Manansala, three works from Arturo Luz, a Cesar Legaspi and a Pacita Abad.

From the contemporary artists, there are two works by Ronald Ventura, two by Marcel Antonio, one by Nona Garcia, two by Winner Jumalon, one by EL Cordova and one by Eufemio Rasco IV.

Interested parties who may want to participate in the auction can visit www.sothebys.com and go to the category auction calendar looking for the Sept. 16 auction of Modern and Contemporary Southeast Asian Paintings.

Bidding can also be done by submitting an Absentee Bid Form by mail, by telephone or by enrolling at the Sotheby's website and bidding by e-mail. Call 65-67328239.



"BOXES and Shells" by Arturo Luz

"BODEGON Enmarcado" by Alcuaz

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SHARON CUNETA
Student, Associate in Arts

CELL REGENERATION: ITS LINK TO THE BODY'S OPTIMAL FUNCTION

Aging is inevitable! And as we gain years in our lives, we realize that our body just isn't the way it used to be and our near-invincible days are slipping. That's because with age, our body loses its grip on this wonderful natural mechanism called CELL REGENERATION – a process of healing and repair that may just hold the key to sustained well-being and longevity.

WHAT IS CELL REGENERATION?

Cell regeneration is a daily process by which cells continuously REPLACE AND RESTORE THEMSELVES TO MAINTAIN THE BODY'S NORMAL FUNCTION. The human body is a well-engineered machine designed to heal and repair itself through cells that are able to continuously multiply, thrive and adapt by a process called cell turnover. Examples of these continuously proliferating cells are those found in the skin, the lining of the intestines, bone marrow and blood.

WHY IS NORMAL CELL REGENERATION NEEDED?

Normal cell regeneration is necessary for the body to function optimally. It is a natural process responsible for keeping our mind sharp, bones and muscles strong, our eyesight keen, our digestion running smoothly, our skin healthy and generally maintaining our youthful, healthy and vibrant looks. Cells demonstrate their wonderful ability to adapt when injuries are sustained by the body. While continuously proliferating cells never cease to replicate themselves, others that have a slower rate of division like those found in the kidney and liver react and multiply faster when an injury occurs to hasten the healing process.

HOW DOES AGE AFFECT CELL REGENERATION?

With age, and other factors like nutritional gaps and cumulative exposure to harmful environmental elements, cell regeneration gets disrupted. The cells become less efficient in repairing and duplicating themselves This cellular change eventually manifests in the skin becoming wrinkled and less elastic, the eyes declining in function and even the digestive tract becoming less able to absorb nutrients. These are just some of the reasons why preserving the regenerative powers of our body cells takes on paramount importance.

WHAT DISRUPTS NORMAL CELL REGENERATION?

While cell regeneration occurs daily, it is keenly dependent on proper nutrition and rest. Hence, too much stress, inadequate sleep, a deficient diet, exposure to other environmental factors tend to interrupt the normal cell regeneration process. Aging also adds to the problem. As we mature, we somehow fail to optimally assimilate all the nutrients our body needs from the food that we eat, creating a significant nutritional gap and slowing down the process of cell renewal.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO ENHANCE NORMAL CELL REGENERATION?

The good news about normal cell regeneration is that we can influence factors that cause its steady decline. Start developing healthy lifestyle habits now like engaging in regular physical activity and getting enough sleep. Avoid smoking and excessive drinking. Steer clear of stress or find a way to handle it well It is also important to take a daily supplement. A nationwide survey conducted by the DOST Food and Nutrition Research Institute in 2003 showed that many essential nutrients are not adequately met by the Filipino diet. And while eating well-balanced meals may be a step in the right direction, sometimes we fail to assimilate all the vitamins and minerals we need from the food that we eat as we grow older. Supplements therefore offer us a practical approach to assure proper nutrition for optimum cell regeneration.

WHAT'S A GOOD SUPPLEMENT TO ENHANCE CELL REGENERATION?

A good nutritional supplement for cell regeneration is one that packs a good balance of all the essential building blocks for renewal. Antioxidant Vitamin C fights free radicals that damage cells and stimulates collagen synthesis. Other antioxidants that help protect cells are Vitamins A and E and Lycopene. Zinc helps in blood clotting and wound healing, and boosts our immune system, while Folic Acid plays a key role in cell division and growth. Vitamin D, on the other hand, helps regulate the growth of cells. Vitamin A and Lutein promote healthy eye cells. The B Vitamins provide energy for all these processes to occur. Other nutrients that support cell regeneration are Taurine, Tyrosine and Choline for enhancement of brain performance. HAVitALL has all 39 vitamins and minerals plus natural ingredients to help enhance the normal cell regeneration process

Now we all know we're hardly immune to injury nor stress, but CELL REGENERATION is our body's insurance policy against the potential damages created by our own lifestyle choices and the world we live in Remember that although aging is inevitable, it can either be accelerated or slowed down by adopting a healthy lifestyle and ensuring a proper nutrition complemented by the right supplement.

LIFESTYLE

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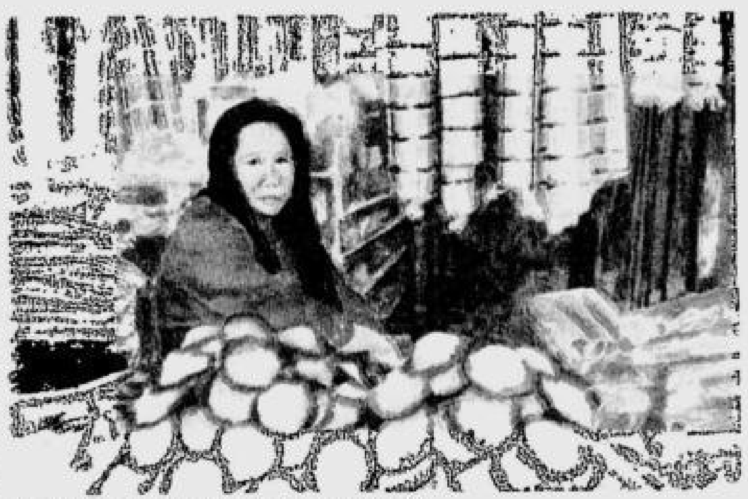
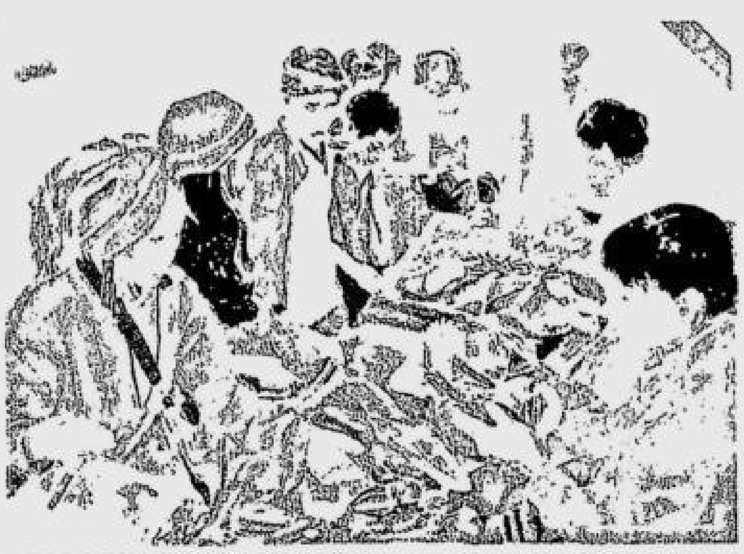
CLAUDE TAYAG

The coming together of palate and palette



"KAKANIN Vendor, Marawi Market"



"TOBACCO Stall, Lake Sebu"

By Karla P. Delgado
Contributor

A T'BOLI WOMAN MAKES EYE contact, content with having bought some of the best-selling *suman* at Lake Sebu Market. The painter has captured her happy eyes and the coolness of the shadows in her native hat.

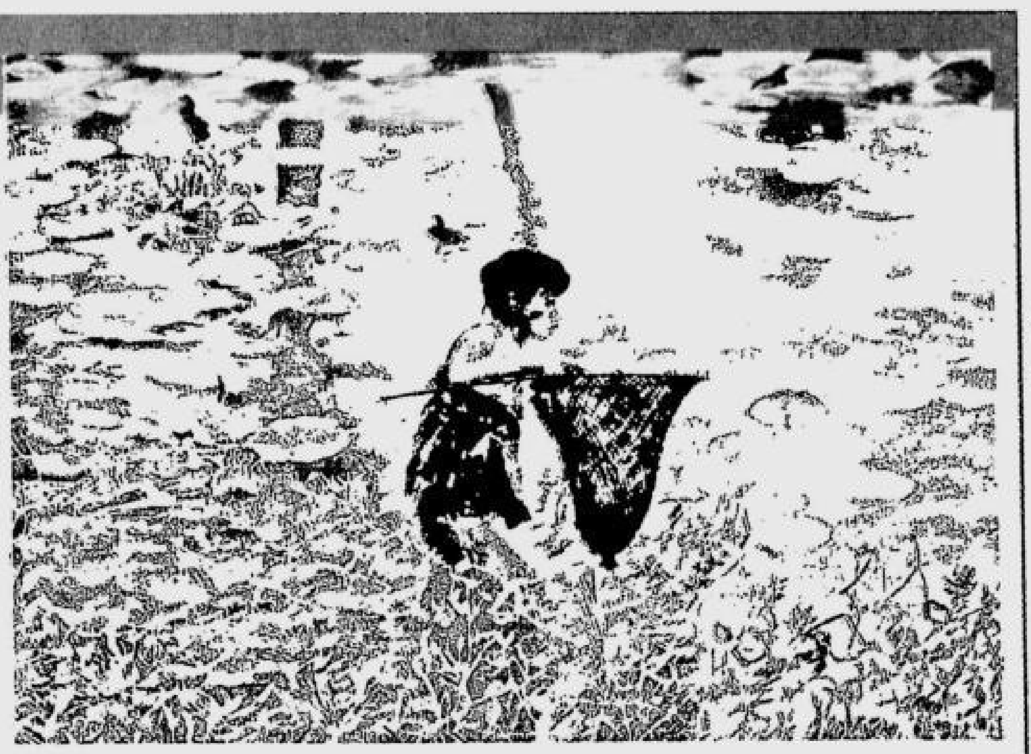
A smiling lady in a colorful T'boli headscarf stretches her arm, palm open, waiting for her purchase of tobacco leaves. In another corner of the lake, a man wades into a *kangkongan* to harvest fistfuls of the gangly leafy green. The waters reflect the sky, lily pods face up.

These are the scenes of Philippine life recorded by artist Claude Tayag, who has brought together his passion for painting, eating and traveling in "Palate/Palette: A Watercolor Travelogue" at the Alliance Française de Manille.

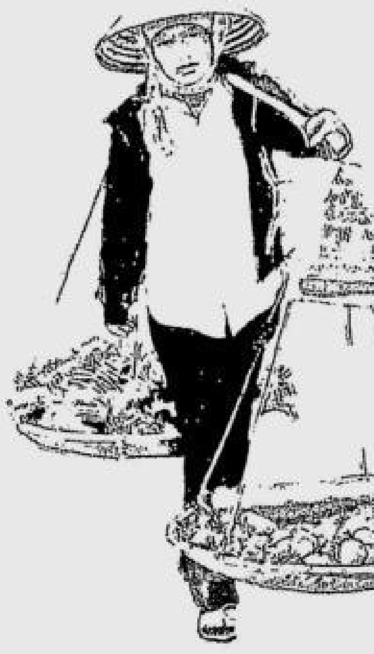
For most of the food trips (pun intended), Claude had his wife, Mary Ann Quioc-Tayag, as his traveling companion.

Claude admits to falling in love with Mary Ann the first time he cooked for her. He made Hainanese chicken rice. "She devoured it with lots of chili and gusto," he recalls. "This is one hot lady who can eat, I thought."

The couple has made it a lifelong mission to eat their way across the Philippines, so to speak. Even Marawi makes an appearance in the exhibit, with the artist zeroing in on such delicacies as the deep-fried sweets and the *bakas* fish which distinguish the Marawi City Market.



"KANGKONGAN, Lake Sebu"



"AMBULANT Vendor, Hanoi"

Claude Tayag '07

The couple has gone beyond Philippine shores in a quest for life-enhancing gastronomic experiences. Hanoi was one such stop. Claude was so taken by the noodles, he immortalized them using his palette.

One painting of a bowl of pho bo noodle soup with lime wedges on the side elicits the same saliva-in-the-back-of-the-gums response as the thought of green mango and *bagoong*. One can almost taste the broth with a splash of lime adding to the pleasure.

"Palate/Palette" runs until Sept. 28 at Alliance Française de Manille, 209 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo Street), Bel Air 2, Makati City. Call 895-7585.

Karla P. Delgado is the author of "Philippine Markets," published by Centro Escolar University and photographed by Neal Oshima.

Seb Chua's intimate sculptures

AVID ART COLLECTOR AND SUCCESSFUL businessman, Seb Chua has become an artist himself, turning an erstwhile hobby into a passion for sculpture and painting. Last month, he unveiled his first solo exhibit titled "Fractal Visions," at the ArtAsia Gallery in the Art Walk of SM Megamall. His exhibit runs until Sept 15.

With an extensive background in product research and design, the idea of exploring forms, both hidden and manifest, was a constant source of stimulus for Chua. As a Xavier school alumnus who pursued studies at the University of Sto. Tomas and Columbia College in Vancouver, Canada, he was attracted to the modem, abstract style with its emphasis on form and negative space.

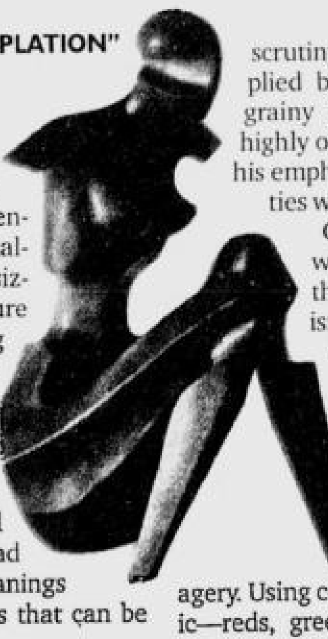
As a budding sculptor, he had set his mind on experimenting with bronze, marble and brass as mediums, and later casting his figures. In business, the dearth of professional sculptors in the art scene, and the lack of space for showcasing their work prompted him and his partner to open ArtAsia at SM Megamall a few years ago.

Upon the prodding of his friends, he joined the Annual Competition of the Art Association of the Philippines where he submitted his sculpture, "Solitude," which won the judges' nod for honorable mention.

For his first solo show, Chua has lined up a total of 18 medium-size sculptures, majority of which explore the human figure, in his signature synthesized bronze medium and marble casting. The wide variety of colors—pristine white, green, and polished brass plates—shows Chua's endless exploration of medium. The imagery yields a wealth of the artist's multi-faceted examination into the internal states of the human condition.

"MOTHER and Child"

"CONTEMPLATION"



Using a professedly modernist angle, particularly cubist in influence, and geometric in rendering, the artist shows his partiality to the angular form, emphasizing the inner strength of the figure while at the same time showing suppleness and grace in the posture delineated. While highlighting the quiet and restrained states of repose, as in "Soulmates" and "Contemplation," he eschews the trite and trivial theatrics and instead opens up a multiplicity of meanings and the wealth of perspectives that can be deduced in these figures.

The size of Chua's sculptures radiates a feeling of intimacy between viewer and object, as these works are meant for closer scrutiny. The distinctive casting applied by the artist in retaining the grainy textures of his work speaks highly of his lofty sense of artistry and his emphasis on exploring all possibilities with his mediums.

Chua has another body of work in acrylic, all rendered in the style of abstract expressionism. These paintings are stunning in their application of color and palette, revealing the untamed, if unpredictable, side of the artist whose journey won't be complete without taking personal risks with his choice of concept and imagery. Using colors that can indeed be chaotic—reds, greens and yellows—and brushwork that is brisk, bold and brazen in application, Chua is proving to all and sundry that he is himself a work in progress.

Balisi's edifice complex

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos
Contributor

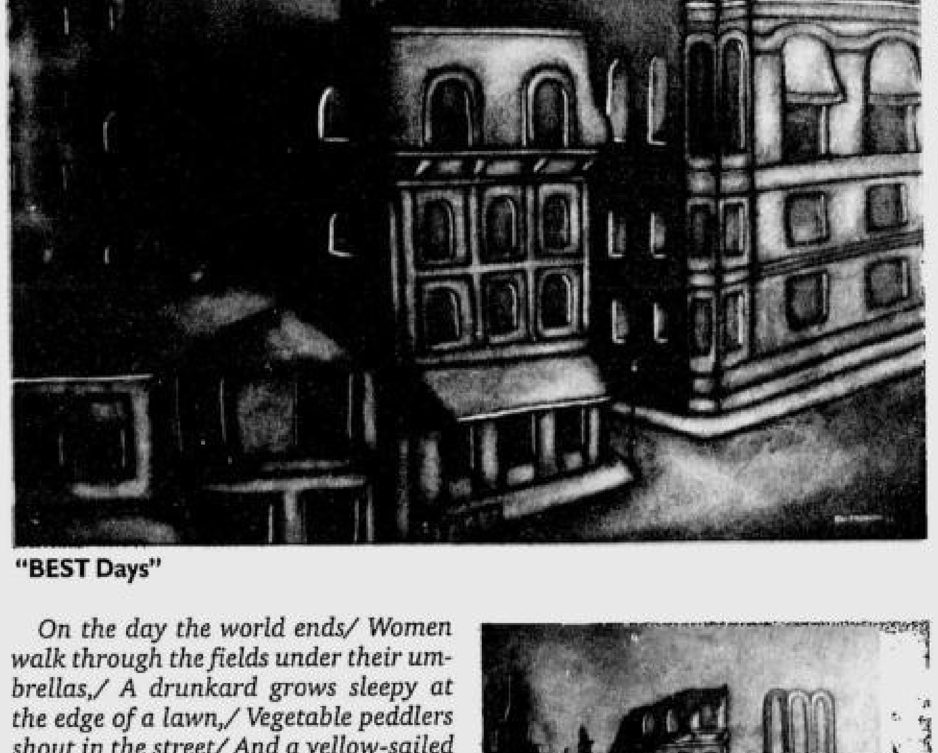
A T FIRST GLANCE, THE OIL-on-canvas "A Little Pat on the Shoulder" may bring to mind Japanese *sararimen* (salary men) commuting to work on speed trains. The worker drones and painting's image are almost identical not only in their dark suits but also in their hurried strides.

Upon closer inspection, however, the men in the painting by Allan Jay Balisi appear to be wearing winter coats with vests and mufflers that have an old-fashioned European East-bloc air about them. They are seated closely together as if on a crowded train.

From the glass windows behind them, a row of buildings peep out from between their shoulders. Only their chins are visible as the rest of their faces are cropped off the upper edge of the canvas.

Though the title may jive with the Japanese-inspired vignette of an interpretation, the piece is only one in a collection that is accompanied by "A Song on the End of the World," a poem by Nobel laureate Czeslaw Milosz:

On the day the world ends/ A bee circles a clover,/ A fisherman mends a glimmering net./ Happy porpoises jump in the sea,/ By the rainspout young sparrows are playing/ And the snake is gold-skinned as it should always be.//

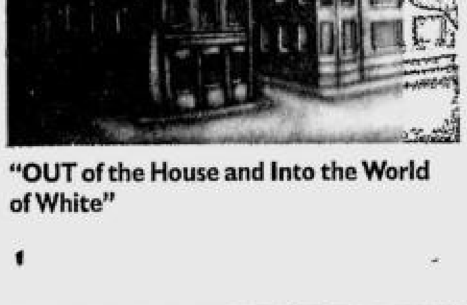


"BEST Days"

On the day the world ends/ Women walk through the fields under their umbrellas,/ A drunkard grows sleepy at the edge of a lawn,/ Vegetable peddlers shout in the street/ And a yellow-sailed boat comes nearer the island,/ The voice of a violin lasts in the air/ And leads into a starry night.//

And those who expected lightning and thunder/ Are disappointed. And those who expected signs and archangels' trumpets/ Do not believe it is happening now./ As long as the sun and the moon are above,/ As long as the bumblebee visits a rose,/ As long as rosy infants are born,/ No one believes it is happening now.//

Only a white-haired old man, who would be a prophet/ Yet is not a prophet, for he's much too busy,/ Repeats while he binds his tomatoes: No other end of the world will there be,/ No other end of the world will there be.



"OUT of the House and Into the World of White"

Renditions of structures

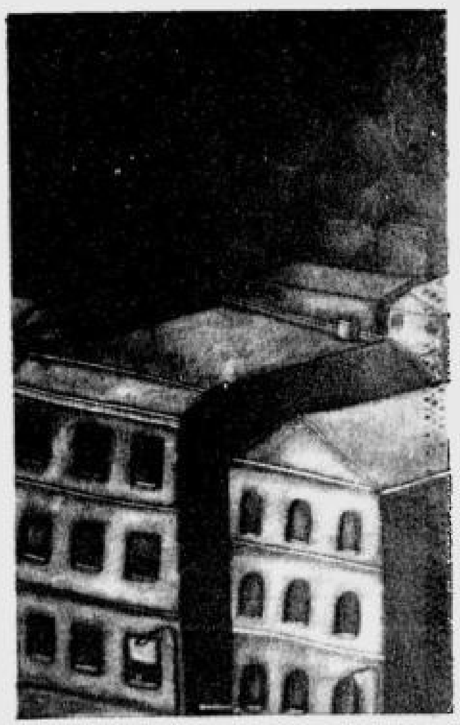
The body of works titled "Neighborhood" features mostly old buildings or portions of them. It is exhibited in Blanc at Crown Tower in Makati's Salcedo Village.

In fact, only the piece has detailed figures. The rest are renditions of various structures seen in half-light, either at dusk or at dawn. Some of them seem abandoned, hollow in appearance.

"Best Days" and "Homesick" show edifices whose windows look like holes on the concrete walls reminiscent of those in biblical cities where houses were smoothened limestone whose entrances were simple arched openings.

Here, Balisi uses his own trick of light, as he renders brightness that is restricted within, glowing only around the frameless windows and doors, but not emanating from them.

Empty but flooded



"HOMESICK"

The irony stands thus: The buildings are empty yet they are flooded with light inside. Ironic, too, but at the same time possibly apt, is the poem's reference to animals, active people, foliage and nature, when none of them is present in the artworks.

It is possible that the artist has either taken Milosz's writing literally, meaning "the end of the world" has brought about the absence of living beings and consequently results in empty streets and houses (or, for that matter, the empty bridge in "Sweet Waters"); or he has taken on the task of condemning the Holocaust, which the Polish writer himself had witnessed and railed against in his Nobel lecture, urging that it not simply be forgotten.

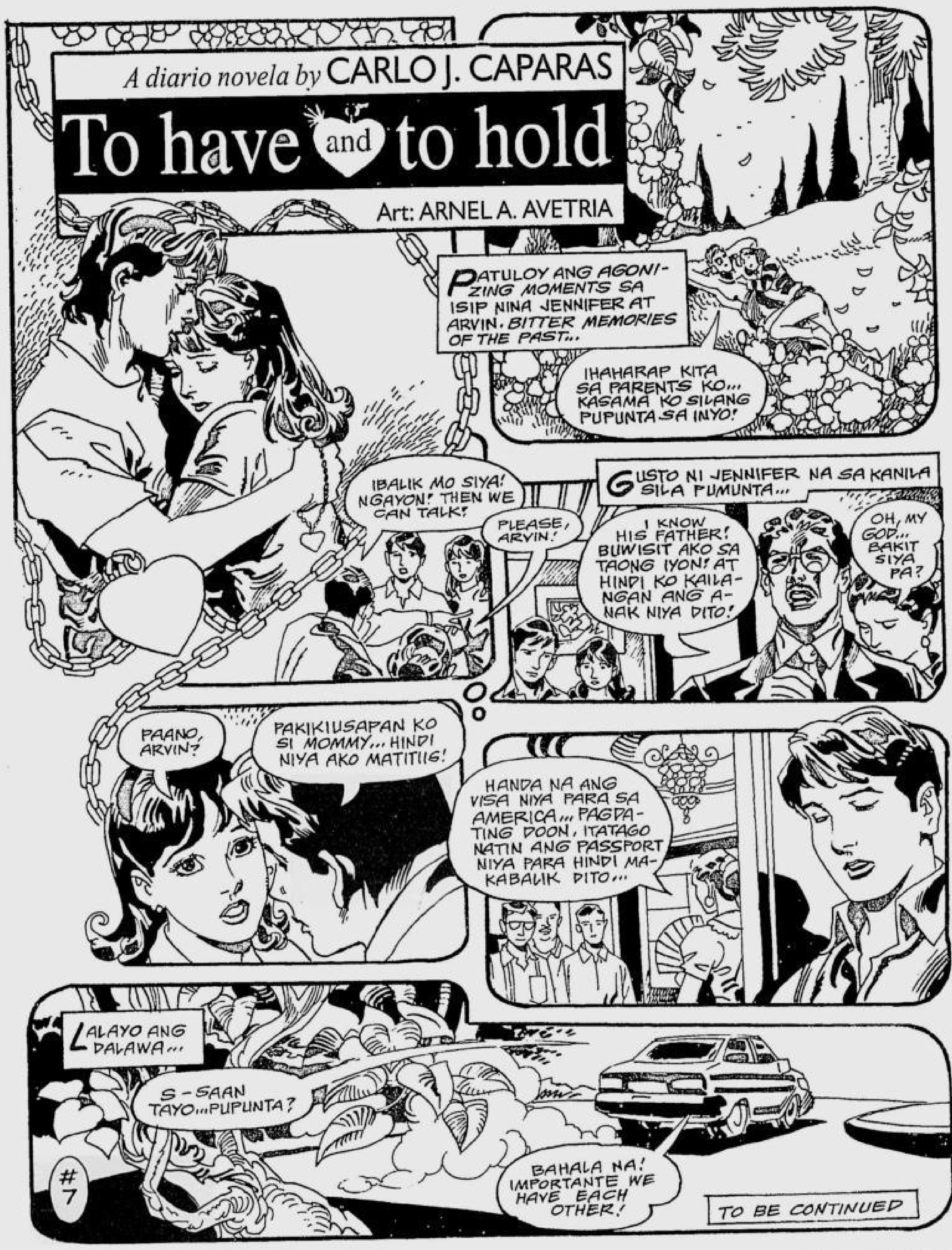
Also in that lecture, Milosz said:

BALISI'S/ D4

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

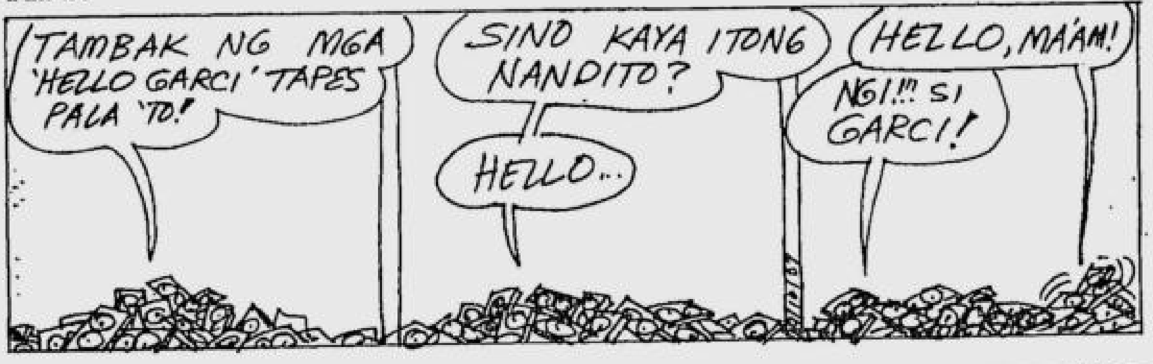
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


PATULOY ANG AGONIZING MOMENTS SA ISIP NINA JENNIFER AT ARVIN. BITTER MEMORIES OF THE PAST...
IHAHARAP KITA SA PARENTS KO... KASAMA KO SILANG PUPUNTA SA INYO!
GUSTO NI JENNIFER NA SA KANILA SILA PUMUNTA...
IBALIK MO SIYA! NGAYON! THEN WE CAN TALK!
PLEASE, ARVIN!
I KNOW HIS FATHER! BUWISIT AKO SA TAONG IYON! AT HINDI KO KAILANGAN ANG ANAK NIYA DITO!
OH, MY GOD... BAKIT SIYA PA?
PAANO, ARVIN?
PAKIKIUSAPAN KO SI MOMMY... HINDI NIYA AKO MATITIIS!
HANDA NA ANG VISA NIYA PARA SA AMERICA... PAGDATING DOON, ITATAGO NATIN ANG PASSPORT NIYA PARA HINDI MAKABALIK DITO...
LALAYO ANG DALAWA...
S-SAAN TAYO...PUPUNTA?
BAHALA NA! IMPORTANTE WE HAVE EACH OTHER!
#7
TO BE CONTINUED

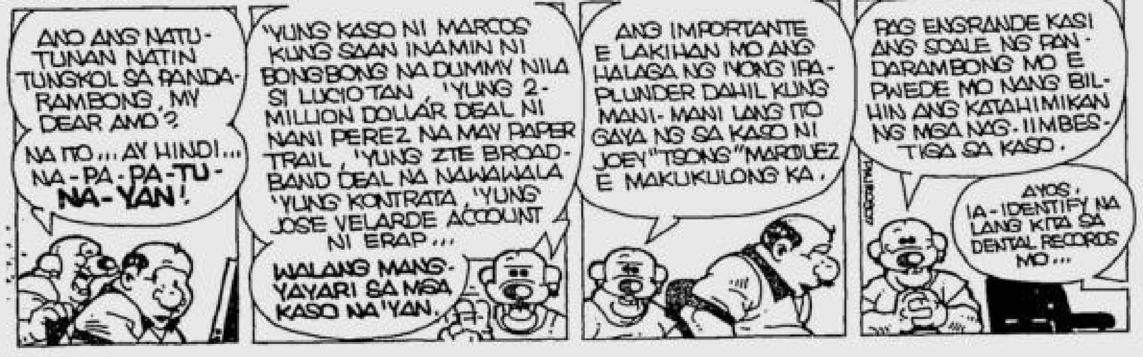
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TAMBAK NG MGA 'HELLO GARCI' TAPES PALA 'TO!
SINO KAYA ITONG NANDITO?
HELLO...
HELLO, MA'AM!
NGI!!! SI GARCI!

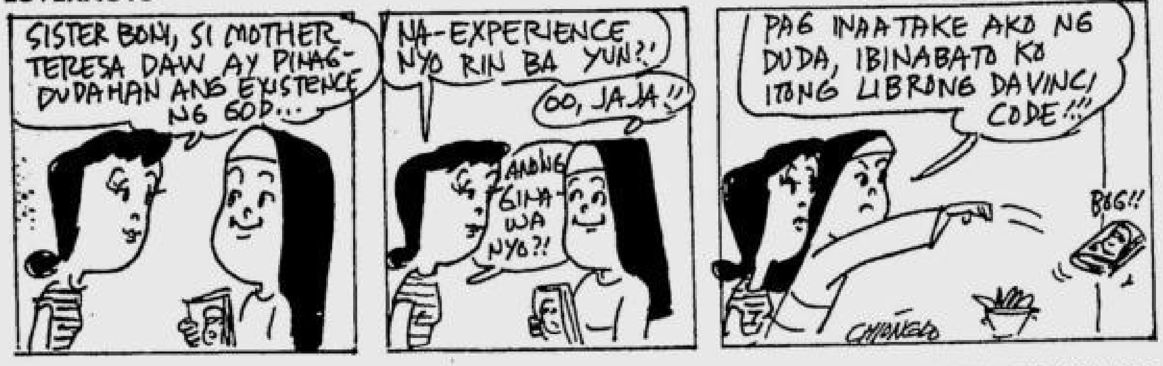
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO ANG NATUTUNAN NATIN TUNGKOL SA PANDARAMBONG, MY DEAR AMO?
NA ITO... AY HINDI... NA-PA-PA-TU-NA-YAN!
'YUNG KASO NI MARCOS KUNG SAAN INAMIN NI BONGBONG NA DUMMY NILA SI LUCIO TAN, 'YUNG 2-MILLION DOLLAR DEAL NI NANI PEREZ NA MAY PAPER TRAIL, 'YUNG ZTE BROADBAND DEAL NA NAWAWALA 'YUNG KONTRATA, 'YUNG JOSE VELARDE ACCOUNT NI ERAP...
WALANG MANGYAYARI SA MGA KASO NA 'YAN.
ANG IMPORTANTE E LAKIHAN MO ANG HALAGA NG 'NONG IPAPLUNDER DAHIL KUNG MANI-MANI LANG ITO GAYA NG SA KASO NI JOEY "TSONG" MARQUEZ E MAKUKULONG KA.
PAG ENGRANDE KASI ANG SCALE NG PANDARAMBONG MO E PWEDE MO NANG BILHIN ANG KATAHIMIKAN NG MGA NAG-IIMBESTIGA SA KASO.
AYOS. IA-IDENTIFY NA LANG KITA SA DENTAL RECORDS MO...

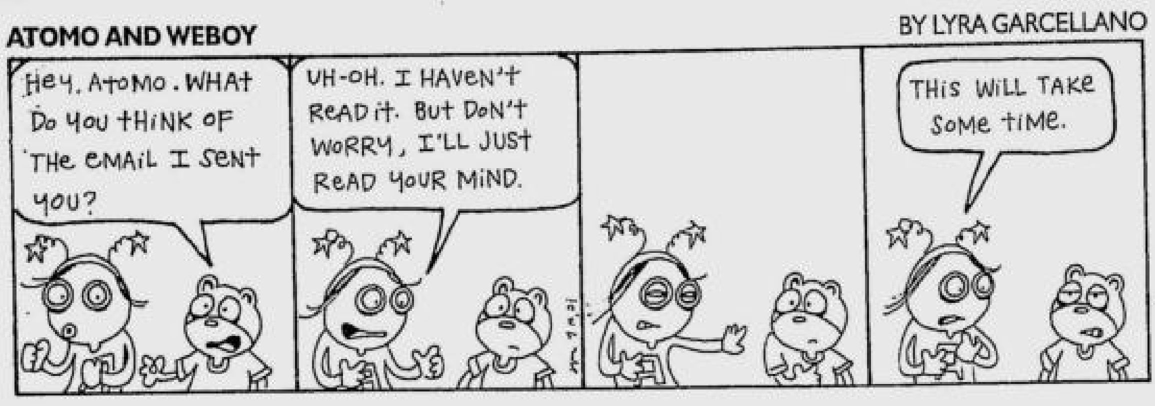
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SISTER BONI, SI MOTHER TERESA DAW AY PINAGDUDAHAN ANG EXISTENCE NG GOD...
NA-EXPERIENCE NYO RIN BA YUN?!
OO, JAJA!!
ANONG GINAWA NYO?!
PAG INAATAKE AKO NG DUDA, IBINABATO KO ITONG LIBRONG DA VINCI CODE!!!
BOG!!
CHIONGLO

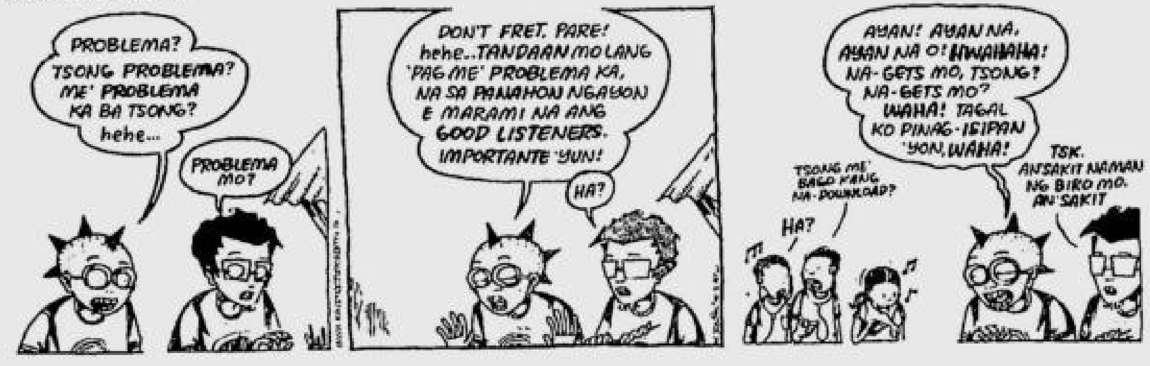
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

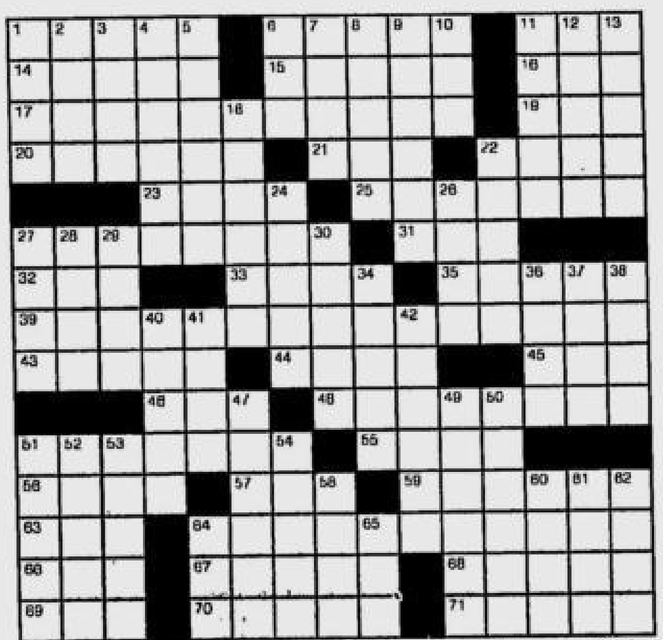

Hey, Atomo. What do you think of the email I sent you?
Uh-oh. I haven't read it. But don't worry, I'll just read your mind.
This will take some time.

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PROBLEMA? TSONG PROBLEMA? ME' PROBLEMA KA BA TSONG? hehe...
PROBLEMA MO?
DON'T FRET, PARE! hehe..TANDAAN MO LANG 'PAG ME' PROBLEMA KA, NA SA PANAHON NGAYON E MARAMI NA ANG GOOD LISTENERS. IMPORTANTE 'YUN!
HA?
TSONG ME' BAGO KANG NA-DOWNLOAD?
HA?
AYAN! AYAN NA, AYAN NA O! HWAHAHA! NA-GETS MO, TSONG? NA-GETS MO? WAHA! TAGAL KO PINAG-ISIPAN 'YON, WAHA!
TSK. ANSAKIT NAMAN NG BIRO MO. AN'SAKIT

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

9/10/07

ACROSS
1 Travels by glider
6 Support-line staff
11 Bring up the rear
14 Muslim women's quarters
15 Kind of daisy
16 Sick
17 Who knows?
19 Vocalize displeasure
20 Ripe for marriage
21 Summer shade
22 Samovars
23 List ender
25 Motley collections
27 Plymouth Colony leader
31 __ Paulo
32 Feel unwell
33 Wolf's shelter
35 Stoneworker
39 Who knows?
43 Must have
44 Relaxed state
45 Impress greatly
46 Apple computer
48 Singing voices
51 Add salt to wounds
55 Fathomless
56 Army group
57 Chick
59 Watches for
63 Get handed a bum __
64 Who knows?
66 Go __ (freak out)
67 Cry of appreciation
68 "Come Back, Little __"
69 English corp. letters
70 Singer K.T. __
71 Spell-caster

DOWN
1 Front of a calf
2 Diamond Head locale
3 Part of U.A.E.
4 Comment on
5 Small silvery fishes
6 As well
7 Depart
8 Fragrant conifer
9 Serengeti stalkers
10 Sailor's milieu
11 Scales sign
12 Beside
13 Luster
18 With a deft touch
22 WWII menace
24 Car buyer's option
26 Ill-smelling
27 Conrad or Barbara
28 Ceremony
29 Different
30 Rudner and Moreno
34 Put down new grass
36 Planted, as grass
37 "Typee" sequel
38 Tidings
40 Plead guilty
41 Oz entrance exams
42 Do over again
47 Cuban export
49 Scrub again
50 Geronimo's tribe
51 Rustic
52 Not likely
53 Two-footed animal
54 Part of USNA
58 Son of Jacob
60 Holm oak
61 London subway
62 Barbecue
64 Cable channel
65 __ sequitur

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	S	C	A	L	■	C	A	R	D	A	M	O	M
I	M	P	A	L	A	■	A	Q	U	I	L	I	N	E
S	P	I	N	E	L	■	S	U	E	E	L	L	E	N
S	E	T	■	C	A	C	T	I	■	S	O	L	I	D
O	R	C	A	■	W	A	I	F	S	■	T	I	L	E
L	A	U	D	S	■	P	L	E	A	D	■	E	L	L
E	G	R	E	T	S	■	E	R	R	E	D	■	■	■
S	E	L	L	E	C	K	■	S	I	N	E	W	E	D
■	■	■	E	W	A	N	S	■	S	T	R	I	D	E
A	C	E	■	S	N	E	E	R	■	S	E	D	G	E
B	A	N	D	■	S	E	N	O	R	■	K	E	E	P
U	N	S	E	W	■	J	O	N	A	H	■	O	W	N
S	T	U	P	I	D	E	R	■	Y	U	P	P	I	E
E	L	E	O	N	O	R	A	■	O	G	R	E	S	S
R	E	S	T	O	C	K	S	■	N	O	O	N	E	S

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9/10/07

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

7	1			2	9			
4	6			7	5	2	3	
					4		8	
						5	6	2
3	7			4			9	8
6	2	1						
	4		5					
	3	9	2	1			5	6
			4	8			1	7

Difficulty Level ★

9/10

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Answer to previous puzzle

2	9	6	3	8	4	5	1	7
5	1	3	2	9	7	4	6	8
4	8	7	1	5	6	3	2	9
7	3	1	5	2	9	6	8	4
9	6	2	4	3	8	7	5	1
8	5	4	7	6	1	9	3	2
6	2	9	8	4	5	1	7	3
1	4	8	6	7	3	2	9	5
3	7	5	9	1	2	8	4	6

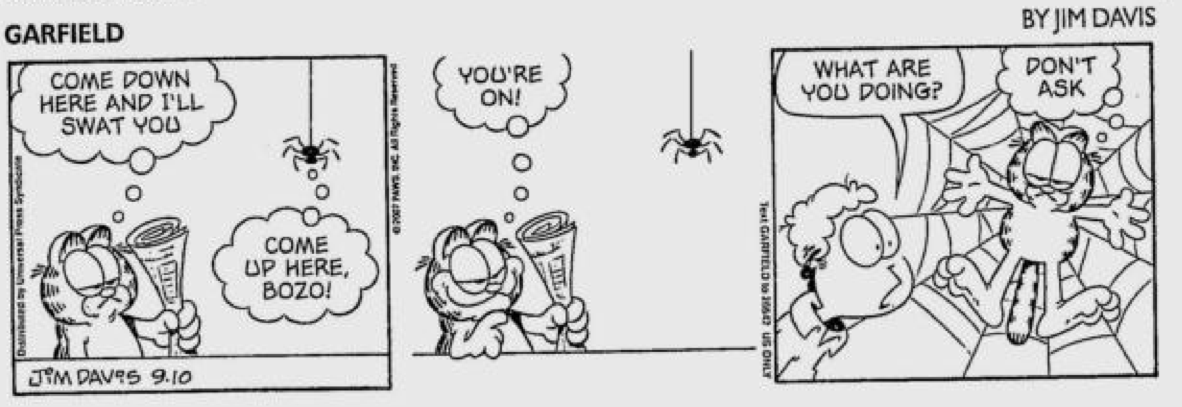
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


COME DOWN HERE AND I'LL SWAT YOU
COME UP HERE, BOZO!
YOU'RE ON!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DON'T ASK
JIM DAVIS 9.10

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're strong-willed, determined and ambitious. You appreciate the good things in life, and you're willing to work for them. You're shrewd and practical, yet often surprisingly generous because you find it rewarding to help others. Because others respect your leadership abilities, you will have opportunities to take charge. Your year ahead is full of many new doors to open. Jump in!

Birthdate of: Colin Firth, actor; Bill O'Reilly, political commentator; Jose Feliciano, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The beginning of this week is the perfect time to make resolutions about how you want to improve your health and how you want to improve your job or how you do your work. What's it going to be?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is the perfect time to think about how you can improve your relations with children and romantic partners, and even your relations with yourself when it comes to having fun. Remember to take time to party!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Each New Moon is a chance to make improvements. This New Moon is your chance to think about how to improve where you live and how you relate to family members.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): What kind of communicator are you? Do you listen when others speak? Do you really hear what they say? Do you make an effort to be understood? Observe yourself.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This New Moon is the perfect time to get on top of your money scene. How much do you have, and how much do you owe? Will a budget help?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is the only New Moon in your sign all year. It lasts for the next 36 hours. It's the perfect time to think about how to improve your image, your appearance and how you relate to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You feel restless today. Try to figure out what it is you really want. There are parts of yourself that you're not quite in touch with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's easy to argue and disagree with friends or members of groups today. People might do things that are radically different or startling.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's easy to have arguments with authority figures today. That's because you don't want anyone telling you what to do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Travel plans might be canceled today. News in the media or something having to do with politics, religion or racial issues could surprise you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Guard your possessions today. Make sure you know what's happening with shared property. Something unexpected might affect your money or your assets.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): All one-on-one encounters and close partnerships will generate some surprises today. Something unexpected will definitely occur. Be on your toes!

Quality feeds: Essential for healthy livestock, prevention of disease outbreak

By Joel V. Nigos

Ensuring a healthy livestock is essential to every poultry or livestock producer.

Since a sizable investment is required for the production of healthy livestock, all care must be taken—from the food they eat, the water they drink, to the vitamins, feed additives, even the antibiotics administered to them.

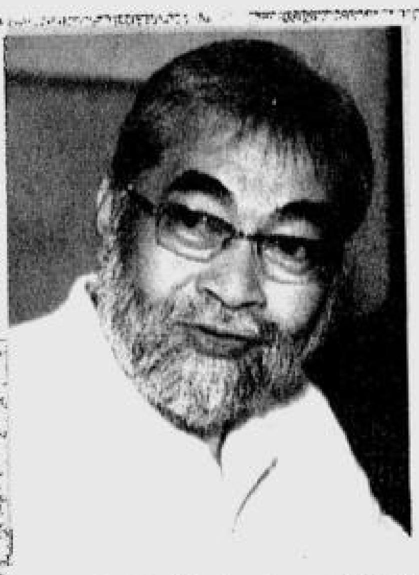
Animal feed ingredients and raw materials should be tested and monitored regularly. It is of utmost importance that every producer knows the crude protein, fat, fiber, moisture, ash, vitamins and minerals of animal feeds since adulterated feed ingredients can cause sudden drops in the production of livestock, resulting in losses amounting to millions of pesos.

Water is also vital for livestock development. Water may be contaminated with e-coli or aflatoxin, the common microorganisms or bacteria present in the vital liquid. With contaminated water, even high quality feeds and medication become useless.

Water coming from deep wells are generally safe. Storing water safely, however, poses a more daunting challenge. Contaminants may be present in the container, or in the pipes where the water runs through. Thus, there's the need to monitor the water—from source to storage—regularly.

Livestock, especially poultry products such as chickens and their eggs, are as vulnerable—if not more—to contaminated water. Water contamination can altogether decimate a poultry stock, or cost the producer a fortune in medicines and antibiotics.

Shares Gregorio San Pedro Jr, president of the National Federation of Egg Producers of the Philippines Inc (NFEPPI) and the United Broiler Raisers' Association (UBRA), it would be far better to invest and to be keen on meeting these requirements than to engage in damage control. It would even be far cheaper to ensure that you have a healthy livestock than to buy medicines or antibiotics when poultry get infected.



Gregorio San Pedro Jr., president of both the National Federation of Egg Producers of the Philippines Inc. (NFEPPI) and the United Broiler Raisers' Association (UBRA), shares the importance of using high quality feeds to ensure a healthy livestock

Elias Jose M. Inciong, UBRA external vice president, says that they are often consulted by government agencies as representatives of their sector with regard to problems and directions in the livestock industry

Pinky Tobiano, president and CEO of Qualibet Testing Services Inc., says that in raising livestock, utmost care should be taken by all stakeholders

PHOTOS BY EUGENE ARANETA

"It's either we put the right investment or we lose all our investments," he says.

Philippine Egg Board

The NFEPP, more commonly known as the Philippine Egg Board, was founded in 1998. Established to save and protect the industry during financial crises, it is the first organization of egg producers. It has accredited chapters all over the country and accounts for 22 million active layers, which in turn produce more than 75 percent of all egg production nationwide.

UBRA, on the other hand, is composed of small- and medium-size poultry producers. Established in 2000, the organization was formed primarily to safeguard the industry, remove the cutthroat competition among member-producers, network among members, and share technology and information.

Elias Jose M. Inciong, external vice president of UBRA, adds that the organization had already made some headway since its founding. They have often been consulted by government agencies as representatives of their sector with regard to problems and directions in the livestock industry.

San Diego reiterates that it is important that livestock are fed with only good quality feeds and the water that they using are free from any contaminants.

Modern-testing facility

Helping them do the job is a modern testing facility accredited by the Bureau of Animal Industry, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture.

Qualibet Testing Services Inc, founded by Pinky Tobiano, offers proximate analyses for feeds, aflatoxin, vitamin and antibiotic analyses, stability studies at three accelerated temperatures, microbiological and water analyses for farms.

Tobiano is a cancer survivor who has made it her personal advocacy to ensure food safety for all and not just for a privileged few. She's a BS Chemistry graduate of the University of Santo Tomas. From 2000 to 2003, she took the "Owners President Management Course" at Harvard Business School. This prepared her to establish Qualibet almost a year ago.

The BAI has the sole responsibility of ensuring the consuming public that the poultry and livestock that are available in the market are safe and antibiotic-free.

"BAI has been very strict and uses international standards in testing feed ingredients (soybean meal, fish meal, wheat corn), feed additives, that are imported by local traders. The agency always maintains that there's no shortcut for safety because the feeds that the livestock eat are in turn ingested by humans," Tobiano states.

The BAI has accredited the services of Qualibet to expedite laboratory results used for import permits and veterinary drug registration. Its Feed Control Division specifically conducts tests on feeds. Aside from the DA, Qualibet has also been tapped by the Department of Health and the Department of Trade and Industry for their various testing requirements.

Quality is better

Qualibet, which is short for "quality is better", is a food, water, pharmaceutical and veterinary testing facility. It is also the newest of its kind and boasts of the most modern testing facilities in the Philippines managed by trained chemists, pharmacists, and microbiologists who are well-trained in various fields such as internal audit, validation of testing procedures or methodologies, and cross training to continuously meet the changing needs of analysis. The company is also affiliated with the American Chemical Society and is also ISO 90001-certified.

In addition to animal feed testing, Qualibet also provides proficiency tests to feed mills and integrators. Several feed mills tap Qualibet to constantly monitor the quality of their feeds for their protein, fat, fiber and moisture content. Qualibet also conducts seminars on Good Manufacturing Practices.

Tobiano says that since microorganisms are present in almost all stages of the food process—in this case the raising of poultry and livestock up to the final food preparation in the homes—it would really be important that safety and utmost care is taken by all stakeholders in the business. Indeed, even in this industry, an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.

Safe Feeds
For Safe Food.
"Food safety starts from the feeds we give to our livestocks."
Loren Legarda
Senator and Environmentalist
QualiBet

Have Your Feeds, Ingredients and Raw Materials Tested and Monitored Regulary.

Kulang ba sa sustansya ang inyong animal feeds dahil tinipid ang ingredients at raw materials nito? Alamin ang Crude Protein, Crude Fat, Crude Fiber, Moisture, Ash, Micro Toxins (Aflatoxin, T2), Vitamins at minerals ng inyong animal feeds. Tumawag lang kay Gigi o Hope sa 0917-8660711 o 0915-6426681 para sa karagdagang kaalaman. Alamin kung paano sinusuri ang iba't ibang produkto sa pamamagitan ng aming mahigpit na laboratory tests. Laging hanapin ang seal of excellence, ang seal of QualiBet. Tumawag lang sa amin kung nais niyong ipakuha ang inyong feed samples para masuri.

QUALIBET
SEAL OF ASSURANCE

A Message Of Concern From

QUALIBET TESTING SERVICES CORP.
For A Safer and Better Life
121 Dangay St. Project 7, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel.Nos.: 374-8003 / 372-7993 Fax No.: 410-6048 • E-mail: qualibettesting@yahoo.com
Website: www.qualibetlab.com

Art renditions for eco-fable on display

UNITED KINGDOM-BASED FILIPINA painter Ivee Olivares-Mellor presents her renditions for the ecological fable "The King and the Royal Trees" at 1/of Gallery in Serendra beginning Sept 14. The suite of paintings and the story will be included in the upcoming Canvas publication of a trio of environmental tales visually rendered by three Magsaysay female artists: Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Plet Bolipata and Mellor.

In 1998, Mellor held a well-received solo exhibition at Hamilton Place in Park Lane, London. In 2002 and 2003, she held sold-out exhibits in two Philippine galleries of note.

For the children's book project, Mellor uses circles as her inspiration and motif to symbolize the presence and threat of the south wind. The circles underpin the structures and provide the framework of the drawings.

Mellor is a graduate of the prestigious Chelsea College of Art and Design in England.

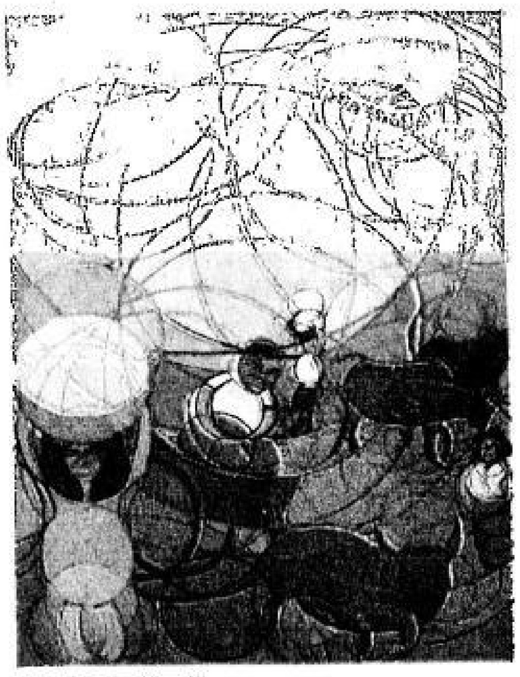
"The King and the Royal Trees" runs until Sept. 23. For details, call 1/of Gallery at 9013152 or 0917-8906160, or visit the Canvas website at www.canvas.ph

The fable

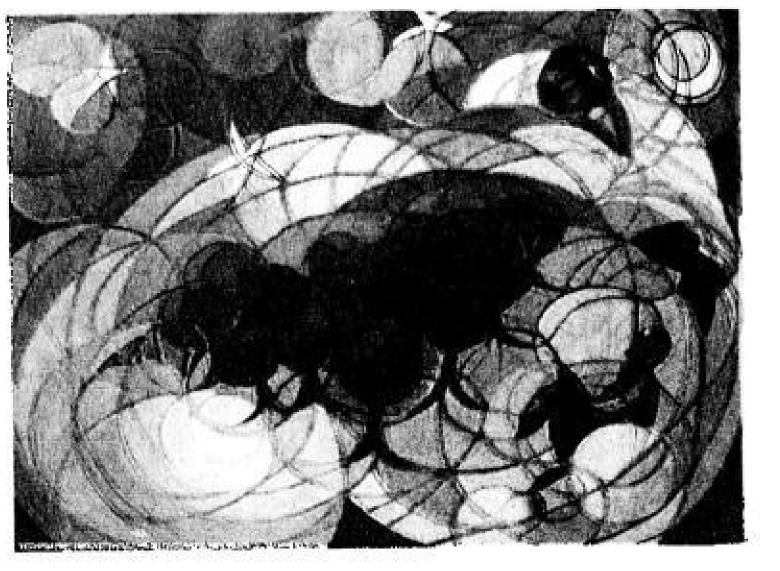
"The King and the Royal Trees" is an ecological fable written by Paul Leet Aird, a University of Toronto professor emeritus and a lifelong conservationist. He has promoted conservation during his over 20 years of work as a forester and forest scientist in the Quebec forest industry, and then as professor of forest conservation policy in the University of Toronto.

A popular speaker, Aird is the author of "Loon Laughter: Ecological Fables and Nature Tales," and numerous reports, articles, fables and poems about nature conservation.

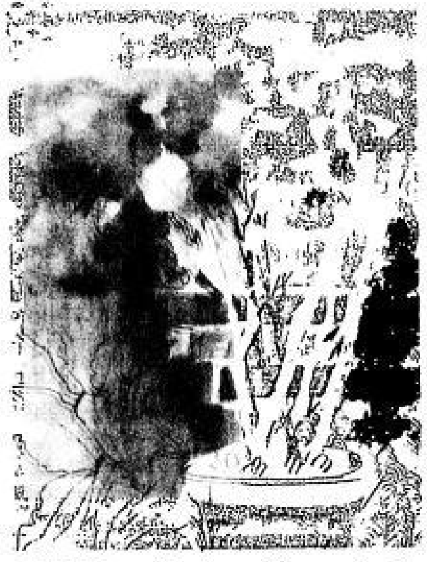
Aird lives on the Niagara Escarpment in the village of Inglewood, Ontario.



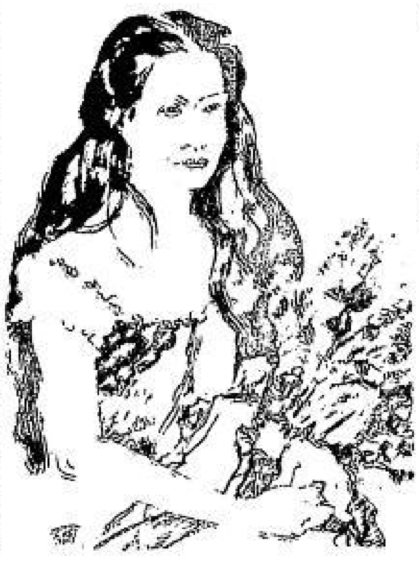
"LOSS Realized"

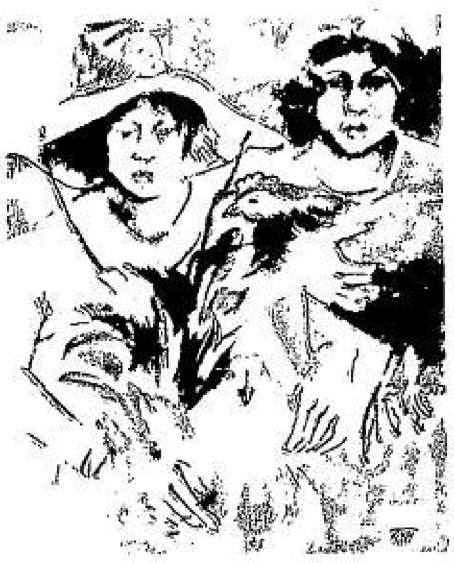


"THE KING'S Dream"

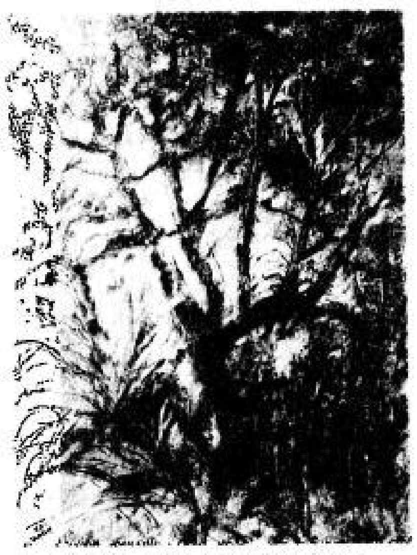


FROM the collection of Armando Giron





FROM the collection of Doris Bustos



FROM the collection of Ophelia Alcantara-Dimalanta

Rafael Cusi's colorful journey in black-and-white

IN FRIENDSHIP, AS IN BUSINESS, there are no gray areas between artist Rafael Cusi and publisher Marlene Aguilar. And difficult as it may be to understand, they can test the endurance of their alliance with a severe ferocity that is matched only by their unshakeable loyalty and respect for each other.

After causing much hue and cry in the art world by announcing their collaboration on the country's first comprehensive book on black-and-white portraits, the maverick duo created as much controversy when they decided—after over 250 book pieces completed—to just drop everything midway and not speak to each other for two whole years!

What the world calls insane, Cusi and Aguilar call therapeutic.

"We needed that break," says Aguilar. "Popoy and I have such intense personalities that after spending time working closely together in a project that we are both very passionate about, we need to stay away from each other or we might explode. *Pero wala kaming pinag-awayan talaga.*"

Cusi agrees: "It's not easy for the people around us to figure out how we can break all communication for two whole years, then pick up exactly where we left off. Some even tried to create a wedge between us for their self-serving reasons. Unfortunately for them, they underestimated our friendship. Marlene and I trust each other completely. There was never a doubt that the book would be completed."

The renewed, re-energized partnership led to the completion of the coffee-table book, "Yin and Yang." The book is replete with over 300 black-and-white paintings by the multi-awarded Cusi.

"I woke up one morning with a dream of publishing a book of paintings using ink on canvas. I was so excited, I immediately called up Popoy to tell him about it and ask if he was interested. Never mind if it was six in the morning!" Aguilar said.

By 9 a.m., the painter was at her doorstep with—lo and behold—over 200 paintings, all in black and white. "He said there was more in his studio, he just needed a little more time to find them. We shared the same vision way before we even met each other. How can you explain that?"

It turned out that Cusi had been painting in black-and-white for over three decades, without exhibiting a single piece. "I painted them for my personal pleasure," he said. "Black and white is extremely challenging. Just like with watercolor, every stroke is final. There is no room for error. You need more imagination to capture the essence of the subject and to create drama because there are no colors to engage the viewer with. It is an expertise in technique that cannot be mastered overnight."

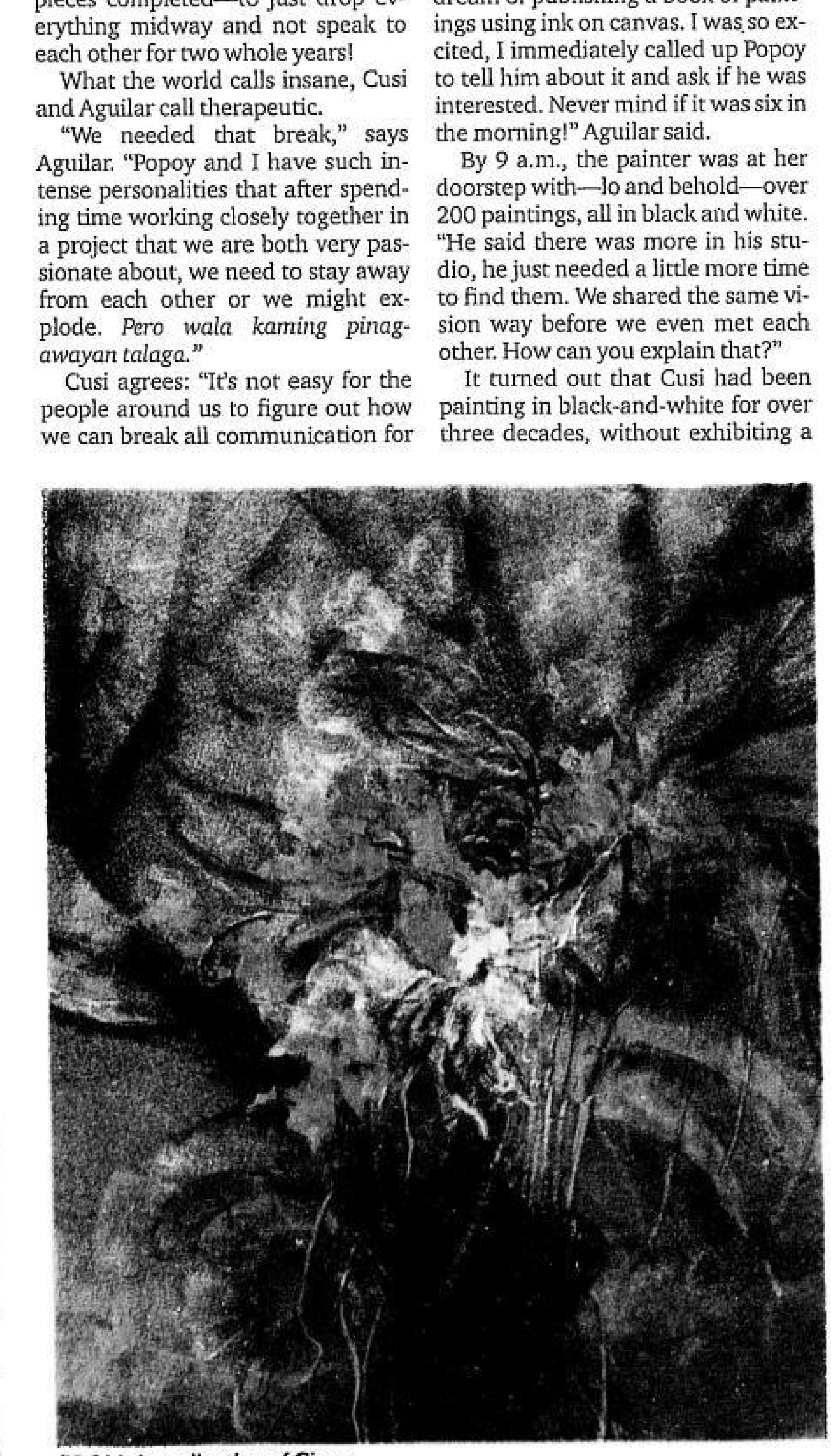
"Yin and Yang" will be unveiled exactly 10 years since the launch of the tandem's first project, "Philippine Coral Reefs in Watercolor," published in 1997. Endorsed by both the United Nations and the Smithsonian Institute, the book was also a recipient of the European Art for Environment Award.

"Yin and Yang" is envisioned to be a breakthrough project that will help elevate the status of black and white portraiture to a level of popularity and acceptance similar to what the unconventional Cusi was able to accomplish when he obstinately insisted on painting with watercolor.

"At a time when watercolor was frowned upon as a minor medium, I stopped painting in oil and acrylic just to prove that the substance is only as good as the hand that wields the brush. This is the same message I wish to relate by painting in black-and-white: that there is unlimited power and splendor in any artwork if you have full control and mastery of your medium."

Proud of his Asian roots, Cusi said his black-and-white work in "Yin and Yang" is inspired by the ancient art of calligraphy, where beauty—in all its strength and grace—is captured with every steady stroke from a master's brush. Having lived and worked in key cities of Europe and North America, Cusi learned all that he could from Western art, only to come home with an even greater desire to explore his Eastern roots and instill its root values into his own artwork.

"Yin and Yang" will be launched Sept. 15 at Bulan Restaurant in Little Baguio, San Juan. Guests of honor include National Artist Napoleon Abueva, Imee Marcos, and Asian Development Bank director Richard Stanley. Copies are now available in all major bookstores and art galleries nationwide. Call 4390572 or 0927-7522641.



FROM the collection of Giron

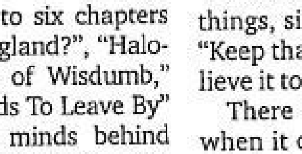
Small but with a big shtick

By Ruel S. De Vera

You may have heard them before, but Pinoy malapropisms have never been as cute or as enlightening as those in 'The More The Manyer!'

PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE FILIPINOS speak English so well and so easily that we are both amazed, and amused by mangled clichés that are almost right yet deliciously wrong. "That's what I'm talking about it!" Or how about: "Come, let's join us!" Or maybe the classic: "Why won't you cut me some slacks?" This is exactly what is celebrated in "The More The Manyer!: Pinoy Clichés and Other Words of Wisdumb" (Tahanan Books, Makati City, 2007, 98 pages), which combines these malapropisms with irresistibly humorous illustrations by Elbert Or. The book itself has a size (3" x 5.25") and retail price (P95) that belies the size of its charm; it may indeed be small, but it carries a big shtick.

The first thing that elevates "The Manyer" over the many forwarded e-mails is its educational, almost scholarly approach to the clichés. After all, readers have probably heard these idiotic idioms before; many of them have been included in jokes about certain celebrities, in some cases, correctly so. Of particular import is the index of corresponding correct English idioms at the end of the book, essentially an antidote to the tongue-tripping that inspired the book in the first place. It doesn't shirk the responsibilities of correcting those hilarious errors, educating after the laughing.



By dividing the book into six chapters ("How Do You Like My England?", "Halo-Halo Metaphors," "Words of Wisdumb," "Welcome Remarks," "Words To Leave By" and "Oxymoronic!"), the minds behind "The Manyer" show the reader where these statements came from and even where they were supposed to be headed, before they got derailed. There is a reflexive joy and enlightenment that comes with reading these verbal and grammatical miscues.

Palpable playfulness

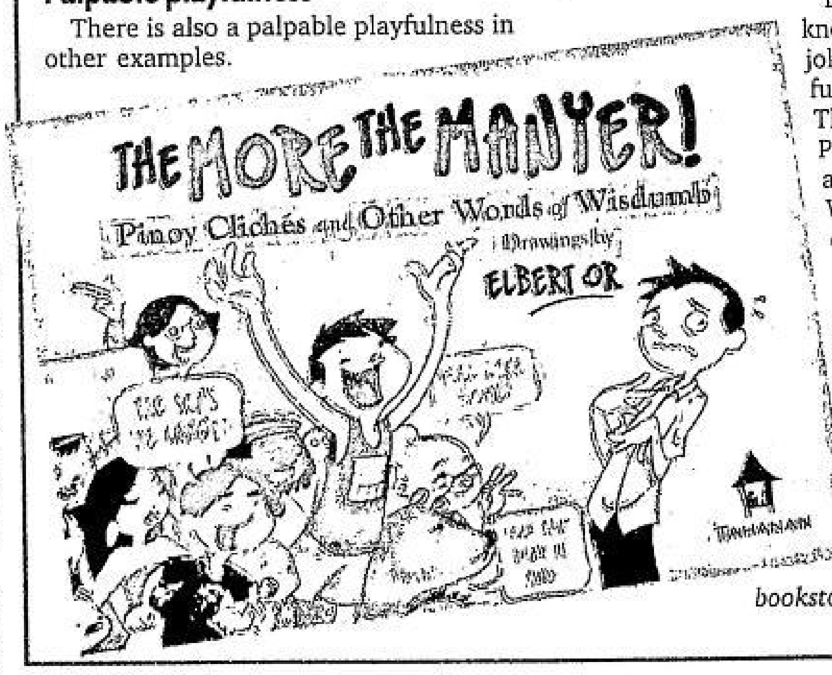
There is also a palpable playfulness in other examples. In that sense, "The Manyer" is the spiritual sequel to Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz's "Ngalang Pinoy: A Primer on Pinoy Wordplay," also from Tahanan. That book listed humorous names as well as establishments like restaurants and bakeshops with names such as Abu Sarrap and Monay Lisa. "The More The Manyer" is the logical continuation.

The other element that distinguishes "The Manyer" is Or's art. Serendipitously an English teacher, Or had illustrated for magazines and books before, particularly some funny book covers and the witty "Bakemono High" strip in K-Zone Magazine. But here, Or uses his distinctive style to provide the perfect pictorial accompaniment for the misquotes, easily his best work so far.

Take a look at that polar bear, of all things, sitting on top of a guy's head for "Keep that bear in mind." You have to believe it to see it, or something like that.

There is still much territory to cover when it comes to the Filipinos' common misdeeds in English; every time someone says "taken cared of" or "cope up" with a straight face should be enough to make English teachers leap at them brandishing a whiteboard marker. This tiny, terrific book is a fun and funny step in the right direction.

Because it knows how even jokes can be helpful, "The More The Manyer!: Pinoy Clichés and Other Words of Wisdumb" is a great example of how Filipinos can get serious, even when it comes to not taking themselves too seriously.



Available in leading bookstores.

Balisi's edifice complex

From page D1

"The exile of the poet today is a simple function of a relatively recent discovery: that whoever wields the power is able to control language and not only with the prohibitions of censorship, but also by changing the meaning of words."

In this case, but not at the risk of alienating Milosz, it is the artist's brush that probably harnesses that power visually. "Out of the House and into the World of White" is a haunting depiction of structural ruin, a picture of war refuse, captured as though a nighttime curfew siren could be heard and the constantly moving patrol lights illuminate the skeletal remains of once imposing buildings at several angles at once. It could easily be Krakow at the height of Hitler's regime.

Along the vein that "world's end" is a metaphor for the Holocaust, the inwardly lit structures, so like those in cities ravaged, serve as paeans to the survivors and as a reminder of the horrific truth, a vow that "No other end of the world will there be."

"Neighborhood" runs until Sept. 24. Blanc is at 2E Crown Tower, 107 H.V. de la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Call 752-0032 or 0920-9276436.

E-mail the author at majorday@gmail.com

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FROM left: Venice Tamayo, Patrick Reyes, Emely Jane Mahipus, Bernica Sioson Tuason and Cecile Basilio Roxas (seated)

A treat of wonderful pianism

Piano concerts definitely make our day

NOREEN Paula Tan Ngo, Herminigildo Ranera and Inna Montesclaros PHOTO BY TIM ABEJO

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

PIANO MUSIC TOOK CENTER stage in a series of concerts held separately in different venues, giving piano enthusiasts a treat of pianism essayed by young and senior pianists alike.

At the Francisco Santiago Hall of Banco de Oro in Makati City, Regina "Inna" P. Montesclaros and Naureen Paula Tan Ngo forged a remarkable tandem as they showcased their individual and collaborative talents. They had been keen competitors in local piano competitions and both had garnered top prizes.

Watching them perform as a team rather than as competitors was simply engaging, thanks to the Manila Chamber Orchestra Foundation (MCO), which presented the concert as part of its 2007 festival. The MCO has always believed in nurturing the talents of young artists. Although the musicians played individual pieces, the concert was largely collaborative.

With UST professor Herminigildo Ranera securely wielding the baton on the podium, Montesclaros and Ngo played Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos, K. 365, with the UST Symphony Orchestra. They electrified the audience with a youthful exuberance, fresh and spontaneous.

They exchanged seats in Milhaud's "Scaramouche," this time Noreen on piano 1, and engaged the audience further into a light, mood throughout the set of three movements.

The high point of their performance was Saint-Saens "Carnival of Animals," as they, with the UST Symphony Orchestra, imitated in a series of short pieces animals in the zoo. MCO director Armando Baltazar provided a stylish annotation in a well-modulated light baritone intonation. The rendition was made more absorbing with visuals of the featured animals flashed on screen on the right side of the stage.

Both young pianists rendered each a solo piece that underscored their respective soloist caliber: Noreen did Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 13; while Inna, Ginestera's Danzas Argentinas, all with prolific energy.

They certainly are the young pianists to watch! Their teachers are Raul Sunico and Cecile Basilio-Roxas, respectively.

Asuncion at GSIS

At the GSIS Museum, Manila's piano enthusiasts heard Victor Santiago Asuncion, undoubtedly one of the country's finest pianists. He just finished his Doctorate in Musical Arts (DMA) in Piano Performance at University of Maryland and is now a faculty member at University of Memphis, where he is the Coordinator of Piano and Collaborative Arts Studies.

Asuncion wowed his listeners with his discriminating pianism that could only come from a literate understanding of the works, and a well-honed technique that served as a foundation of his interpretative skill. He played intelligently, and its appeal was his correct style of execution. Briefly but amply, he introduced each piece before playing it.

He was expressive in Alban Berg's Sonata No. 1, a piece rarely heard on the local concert scene. He rendered those chromatic configurations with crystalline purity and neatness. Its dense texture he etched in velvety tones.

He shifted gear in Ravel's "Gaspard de la nuit," essaying it palpably with enough firmness to keep its lyricism. "Ondine" was expressively singing; "Le gibet," absorbingly eerie; and the finale, "Scarbo," incisively rhythmic.

He had complete abandon in Lizst's Sonata in B Minor, where he combined power and warm touch. His technical prowess could not be faulted as he fired brilliant octaves, handsome staccato in the fugue, and dynamic chords, all starkly contrasted by an alluring singing tone.

Manila must hear more of pianist Asuncion, an alumnus of the Philippine High School for the Arts.

Musika Ibarang and PHSA presented the concert for the benefit of the PHSA Alumni Chapter for its student travel.

Sta. Isabel musicians

Finally, the Santa Isabel College Keyboard Philharmonic, composed of five piano faculty members, perked up the otherwise wet weekend with a rousing symphonic piano music in a concert held at the school's inner court, titled "Piano Carousel."

The pianists were Cecile Basilio-Roxas; Bernica Sioson-Tuason; Emely Jane Mahipus; Venice Tamayo and John Patrick Reyes. The occasion was the 375th institutional foundation anniversary of the school.

Imagine five upright pianos that cut an overwhelming pentagonal space on the center of the school's basketball court. Each pianist makes a clockwise turn and plays on the next piano to the left until everyone comes in full circle.

A TREAT/ E3

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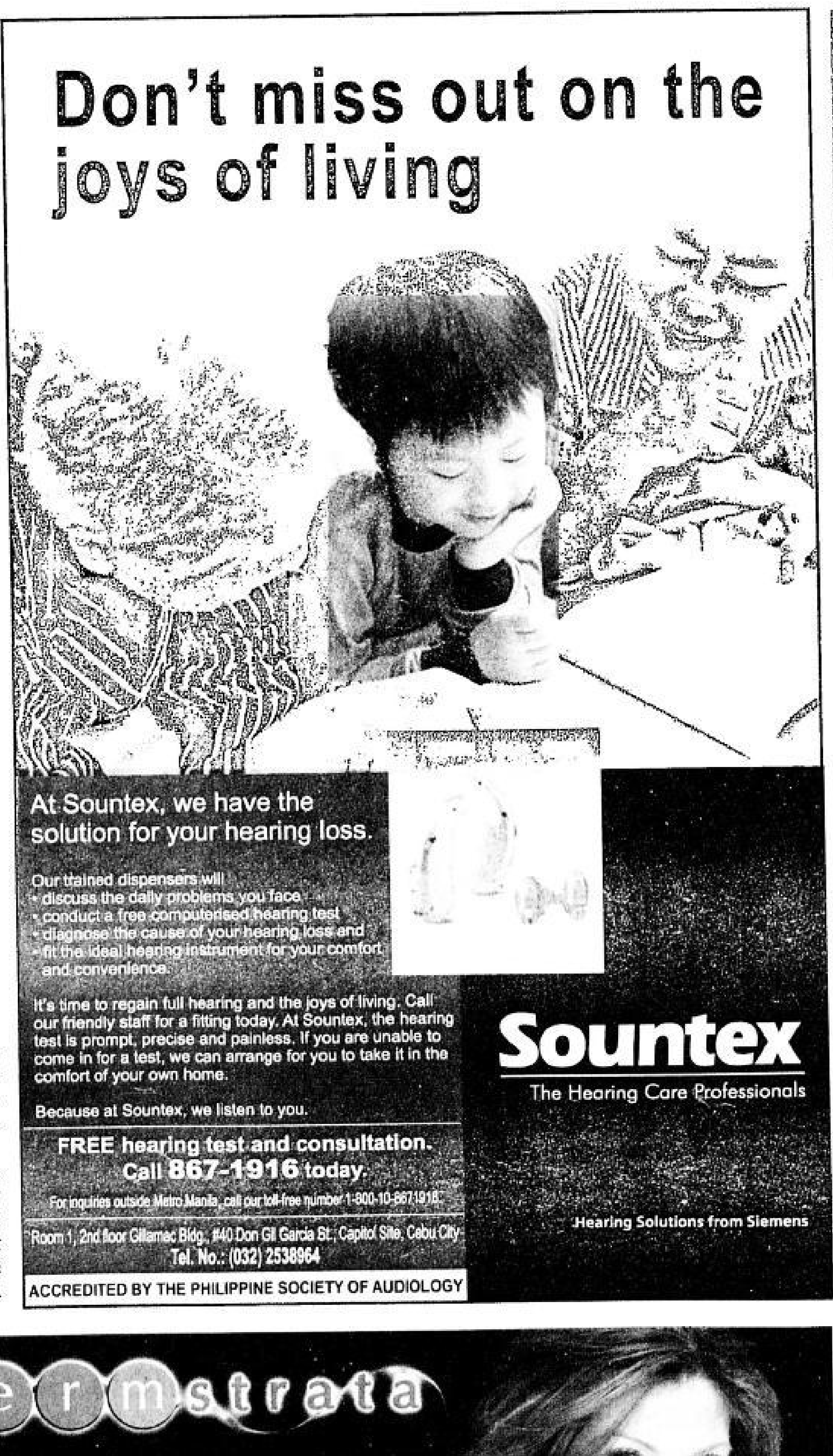

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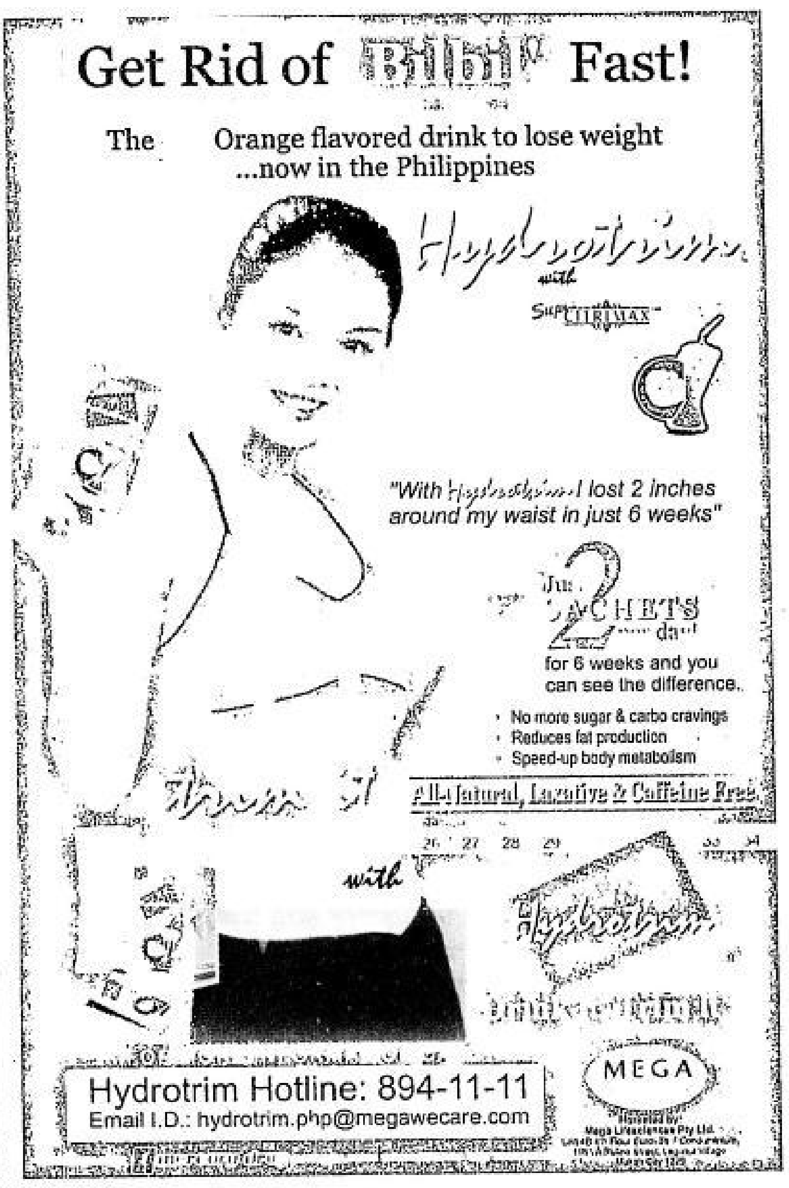

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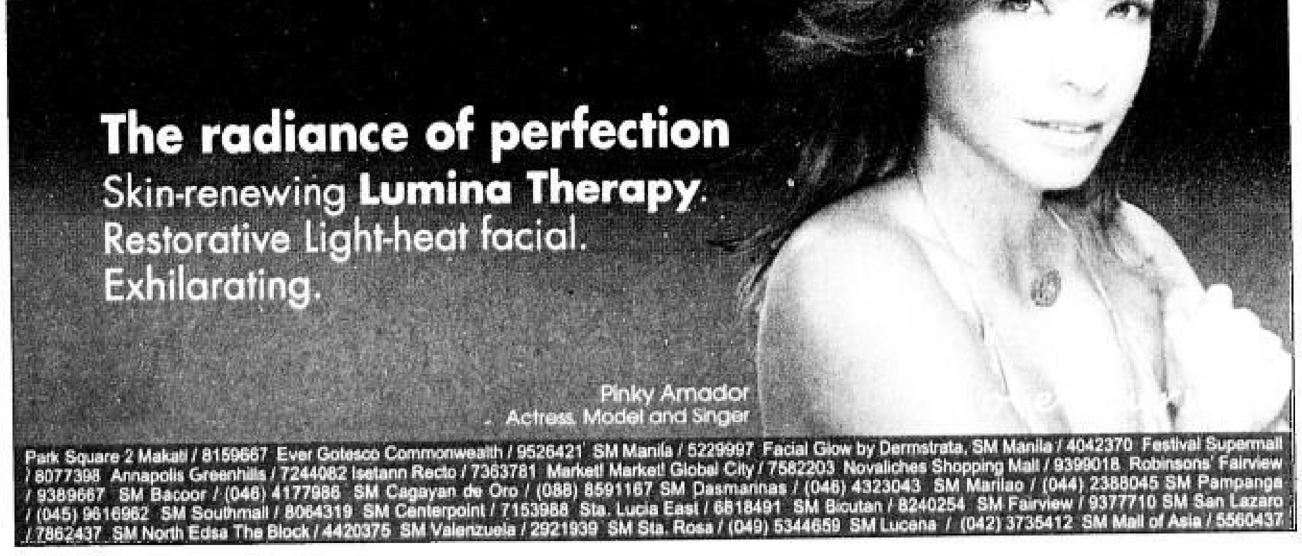

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Hooray for piano teachers!

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

WHY IS THERE SUCH AN OUTburst of young piano talents in the country as showcased in the latest editions of the National Music Competition for Young Artists and the piano festivals of different music organizations?

Well, it's because piano teachers are active and constantly getting updates on the latest in the piano-teaching profession.

A case in point is the array of projects lined up by the Piano Teachers Guild of the Philippines (PTGP), which is sponsoring the 2007 Bach Competition, with its winners to be showcased Sept. 30 at Philamlife Theater, and Oct. 26 at "Paco Park Presents."

In preparation for this competition, seminars were conducted by PTGP president Manuel Marimba on April 29, July 1 and Aug. 5 on correct articulations, dynamics, execution of ornaments and overall interpretation of Bach's music according to the practice of the Baroque period.

> The main problems of the profession remain the lack of good scores and music editions, and the dearth of performance opportunities for new talents

Anthony So of the PTGP competition committee says the categories of the Bach competition are Inventions Sinfonias; the Well-Tempered Clavier Books; and Major Works and Transcriptions. Eliminations will be held at the UST Conservatory of Music recital halls, and the winners will be known in the final round on Sept. 16.

Since its founding on Nov. 2, 1972, the PTGP has been actively pursuing the standardization of professional and pedagogical methods of piano teachers throughout the country.

WINNERS of the PTGP competitions

Surprising maturity

Pianists Najib Ismail and Mary Anne Espina of the PTGP recently took time out to answer questions on the state of piano-playing and teaching in the country.

Ismail believes the standard of piano-playing has been generally positive, and Espina agrees.

"A lot of young kids play well beyond their years, and their sense of maturity is surprising," notes Espina.

The main problems of the profession remain the lack of good scores and music editions, and the dearth of performance opportunities for new talents.

"That is why we at the PTGP have festivals and competitions to get young musicians to perform in good halls, and for them to have a venue for their talent," adds Ismail.

PIANIST Christine Coyiuto

Are piano teachers in the provinces at par with piano teachers in Metro Manila and major cities?

Generally, notes Ismail, most of the good teachers are in Manila. That is why PTGP is reaching out to the provinces by giving seminars on the latest performance practices and trends in piano-playing.

What is in store for the piano profession in this country?

Ismail likes to think the future of the piano profession is bright.

"The PTGP is working hard to make sure our teachers and students will hopefully be at par with the rest of the world," he says.

For inquiries on the PTGP Bach Competition, call 7430491 or 2431081.

Here and there

Fresh from her triumphant team-up with conductor Helen Quach and the Manila Symphony, pianist Christine Coyiuto will have another solo recital on Sunday, Oct. 14, at the CCP Little Theater with guest cellist Anjo Inacay.

Her program includes Handel's Chaconne in G Major, HWV 435; Grieg's Lyric Pieces; and Rachmaninoff's Six Moments Musicaux, Op. 16, and Sonata in G Minor, Op. 19, for violin and cello. For tickets, call 8135828.

* * *

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA) and the 15th anniversary of Sanghiyas Pangkat Mananayaw, the PHSA will mount a reunion-benefit dance concert at Tanghalang Mariang Makiling (NAC Theater) on Sept. 14, and at Francisco Santiago Hall on Sept. 16. For inquiries, call 0926-6621897.

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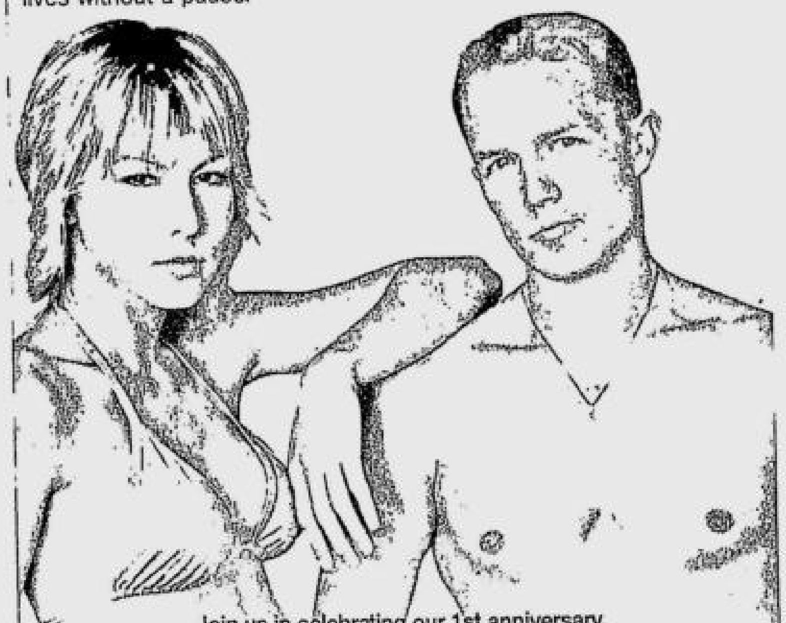

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Peta presents 'Romulus D' Grayt'

THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATIONal Theater Association, in association with the Embassy of Switzerland in Manila and Mme. Charlotte Kerr-Dürrenmatt, brings to the stage Friedrich Dürrenmatt's "Romulus The Great."

Adapted by Jerry Respeto as "Romulus D'Grayt" from the English translation of Gerhard Nellhaus, and directed by Peta artistic director Maribel Legarda, the play tells the story of Romulus, the last emperor of Rome, who, instead of ruling an already crumbling empire, is seen raising chickens in his farm.

"Romulus D'Grayt" features an all-male cast that includes Dido dela Paz, Melvin Lee, Ian Segarra, Ku Aquino, Ronnie Bertubin, Buddy Caramat, Andrew Cruz, Vincent de Jesus, Jef Dee, Eric dela Cruz, Ariel Diccion, Nor Domingo, Jess Evardone, Ceejay Javier, Wally Labajo, Phil Noble, Rhoel Recheta, Paolo Rodriguez, Jethro Tenorio, Miguel Vasquez and Randy Villarama.

CAST of "Romulus D'Grayt"

LEAD actor Dido dela Paz

Lights design is by Naomi Shoko Matsumoto, production design by Leo Abaya and music by Dodjie Fernandez.

The play takes centerstage at Peta Theater Center's Tanghalang Peta-Phinma Friday-Sunday beginning Sept. 14 until Oct. 28. There will be two performances a day. Schedules, however, are subject to change without prior notice.

Call the Peta Marketing and Public Relations Office at 4100821/7256244, or e-mail mpr@petatheater.com or petampro@yahoo.com. Visit www.petatheater.com.

Teatro Tomasino opens 30th season

TEATRO TOMASINO, the university-wide theater guild of the University of Santo Tomas, announces the staging of its first major production for its 30th season, "Unang Dalaw," a 1999 Palanca Award-winning one-act play by Eduardo Perez. It will be staged Sept. 17-18 at the Albertus Magnus Auditorium, 4/F, UST Education Bldg., with shows at 11 a.m., and at 1, 3, and 5 p.m.

"Unang Dalaw" portrays the amusing adventures of three young girls taking their first steps into womanhood during the Philippine Revolution. The play will be directed by the guild's artistic director, Niña Belle P. Gavan.

Part of the proceeds will be allotted for the Kaunlaran High School in Navotas, Manila. For ticket reservation and other inquiries, contact Trish at 0916-7812088 or the Teatro Tomasino office at 4061611 local 8484.

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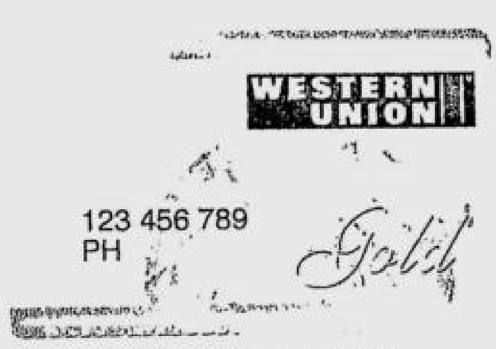

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'Love's Labour's Lost' from Repertory Philippines

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents William Shakespeare's "Love's Labour's Lost" as a reimagined play set in the mid-'80s in Manila's University Belt right before the Edsa revolution.

Those were the days of Psychedelic Furs, Spandau Ballet, early Madonna and Duran Duran; women with big hair, raccoon eyes and shoulder pads; and men with *siyete* haircuts and baggy pants.

Shakespeare entertains audiences through exuberant physical comedy and witty wordplay in this play, about a king and his cohorts who vow to spend three years devoted only to study with no distraction at all from anyone or anything, only to find themselves tempted by ladies and love when the princess and her entourage arrive on a visit.

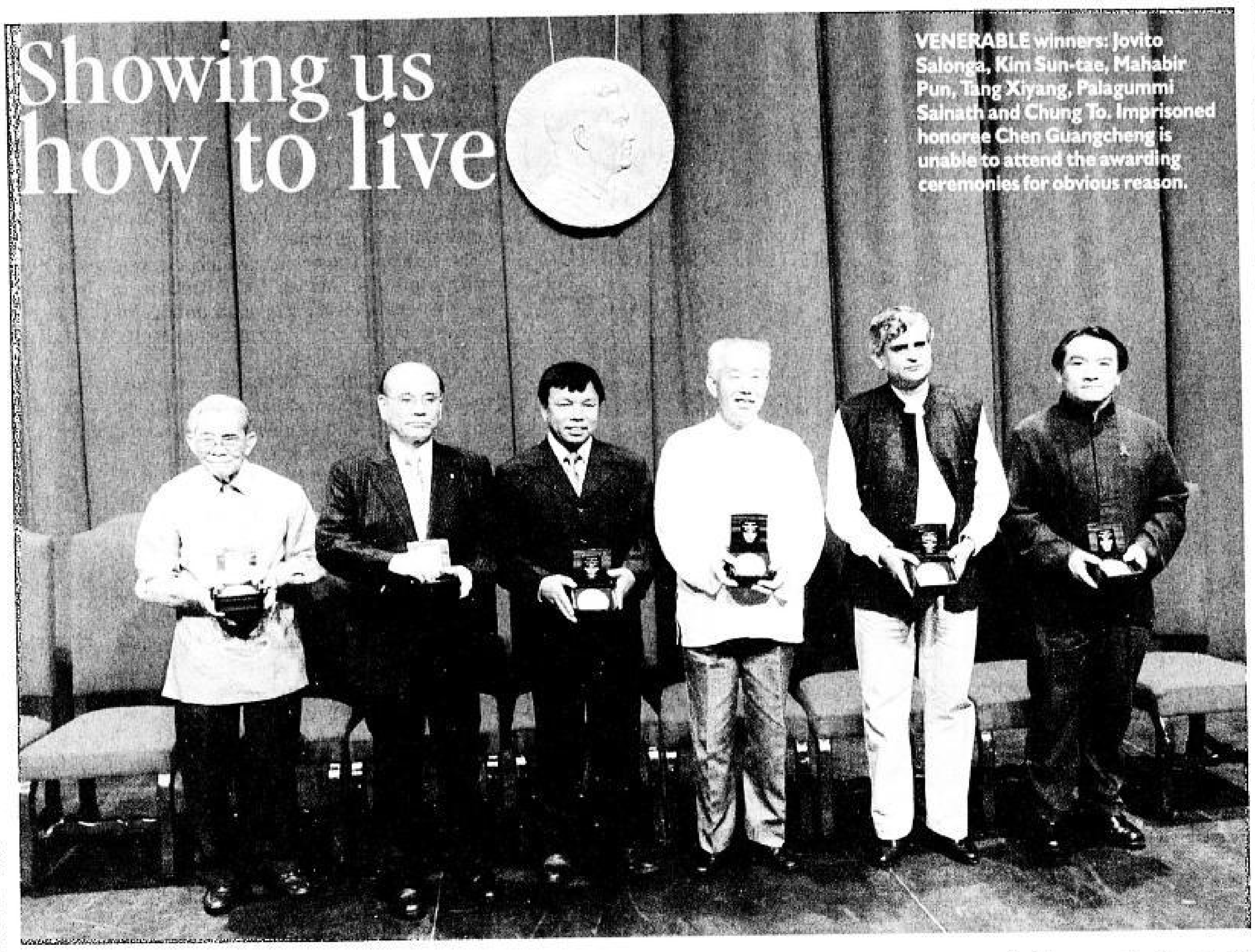
Director Bart Guingona's cast includes Epy Quizon, Nic Manahan, Hans Eckstein, Gabs Santos, Micah Muñoz, Jenny Jamora, Cris Villonco, Crisel Consunji and Caisa Borromeo, ably supported by Ana Bitong, Oliver Usison, Jejie Esguerra, Kenneth Keng, Pom Docena, Dingdong Rosales and Bonggoy Manahan.

"Love's Labour's Lost" runs Sept. 15-Oct. 7 at Onstage, Greenbelt 1, Makati. Call 8870710 or 891999.

CAISA Borromeo, Hans Eckstein, Jenny Jamora, Epy Quizon, Cris Villonco, Nic Manahan, Gabs Santos and Crisel Consunji

Showing us how to live

By Constantino C. Tejero



VENERABLE winners: Jovito Salonga, Kim Sun-tae, Mahabir Pun, Tang Xiyang, Palagummi Sainath and Chung To. Imprisoned honoree Chen Guangcheng is unable to attend the awarding ceremonies for obvious reason.

INCREDIBLY, THERE were no women this year honored by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) in recognition of "greatness of spirit shown in service to the peoples of Asia."

Even our woman President could not attend the presentation ceremonies of this highest of honors, known as Asia's Nobel Prize, on Aug. 31 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater. President Macapagal-Arroyo was in Malaysia on a visit, but an RMAF staff member said she had been invited every year but not once had she graced the occasion since 2003.

Only three high government officials were sighted in the premises: Senators Franklin Drilon and Mar Roxas and Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

Aided by RMAF board chair Washington SyCip, Puno presented the medals and certificates to the awardees. Above them hovered the giant gold medallion embossed with the late President Magsaysay's image, set amid a copper-colored wire representation of laurels embellished with conch shells, against the ox-blood velvet curtain.

There was one absence, though, that was applauded that afternoon—that of Chen Guangcheng, the blind human-rights activist from China now incarcerated in Linyi prison in Shandong province. He was honored with the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership.

Religious upbringing

There were three Chinese honorees this year, the most from any country. Chung To, another awardee for Emergent Leadership, came in a plum-colored traditional Chinese shirt with the red AIDS ribbon pinned on the chest.

In his response, he started a dramatic telling about 7-year-old Fang Fang who asked her dying mother: "Mother, why don't you sell me, so you would have money to buy medicine?" Both parents died, anyway, leaving Fang Fang and her younger sister orphaned by AIDS.

Tang Xiyang, for Peace and International Understanding, also wore a traditional Chinese shirt in white silk brocade. With an interpreter beside him, he gave special thanks to his late American wife and collaborator Marcia, and dedicated his award to Mother Nature, among others.

Jovito R. Salonga from the Philippines, for Government Service, attributed his long exemplary public career to his religious upbringing, his father being a Presbyterian pastor. "What separates me from other political leaders," he said, "is the fact that I do not separate my religion from my political beliefs and from public service."

FORMER Sen. Salonga by the bust of President Ramon Magsaysay PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

Though now slower in gait, the venerable statesman still appeared hale in oyster-gray barong Tagalog.

Lifelong vision

Kim Sun-tae from Korea, for Public Service, was guided to center stage where he stood, in black suit and old-rose tie, a model of dignity and inspiration.

Blinded since 10 during the Korean War, he read his speech in Braille, thanking doctors, nurses, teachers and hospital workers for acting as his hands and feet, and his wife Jung-Ja as his eyes.

His $50,000 prize money he committed to the building of his second eye hospital. "I will always strive to ease the suffering of my brothers and sisters in pain," he said.

Mahabir Pun from Nepal, for Community Leadership, was the most reticent of the lot, almost embarrassed, like a little boy lost. Speaking in low tone, he said the award was "the greatest surprise of my life... has boosted my spirit very much and I feel much younger now."

He related his wishes as a child wanting to have enough food, clothes, shoes, books, pens and paper, and as a college student wanting to become an engineer to get a better job and have a good life. "However, many of my wishes were not fulfilled," he said.

Then he enumerated more wishes: vocational training schools; income-generating programs; college for the poor; communication technology for remote villages—his lifelong vision of improving the lot of rural Nepal, and eventually the world.

Rhapsody and lament

Palagummi Sainath from India, for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts, reminded his audience that this was the 60th anniversary of Indian independence.

After rhapsodizing over his country's history, he lamented over "a nation that ranks fourth on the world's list of billionaires and 126th in human development," and lambasted "a media politically free but chained by profit."

At his most inspiring, he quoted a line from the Mahatma: "Live simply, that others might simply live."

Appearing in khaki pants and white sleeve-shirt with charcoal-gray vest that looked like a cross between a paparazzi outfit and a Nehru jacket, he looked every inch a hard-hitting journalist.

Chen, known as China's Barefoot Lawyer, could not receive his award for obvious reason. He was serving a prison sentence of four years and three months for exposing local officials' abuses of China's one-child policy, including forced abortions.

Neither could his wife Yuan Weijing attend to get his award, as she, too, had been stopped from leaving Beijing. Her message was read by RMAF president Carmencita Abella to an unusually solemn audience.

During the presentation of the seven awardees, when each was called to center stage to form a row, Chen's name was the most applauded. And his absence seemed to be the most real presence.

Darkness and light

In his congratulatory remarks, Puno was brimming over with verbal felicities.

He eulogized President Magsaysay as "our incandescent moral light." (That was after quoting Martin Luther King Jr.: "Everyone must decide whether to walk in the light of creative altruism or to walk in the darkness of destructive selfishness.")

At one time, he baffled some in the audience when he started praising Tang Xiyang for "protecting his country's chirping birds... rustling leaves, and flowing rivers, now threatened"—and that was when his listeners realized he was referring to an environmentalist.

Finally he thanked the honorees for "showing us how to live," and that "there can be a heaven on earth."

A treat of wonderful pianism

From page E1

Together with the Santa Isabel College Chamber Orchestra composed of the school's music students and conducted by Crisanti L. Alcazo, the Keyboard Philharmonic rendered Bach's Concerto in A Minor as an opener.

The rest of the program consisted of familiar light pieces scored for five pianos, making it collectively sound like a philharmonic orchestra, thanks to the genius of Jane Tan, who arranged the classical standard pieces, and John Reyes, who arranged two Filipino numbers, "Pamulinawen and "Pandangguhan." Indeed, the rendition was superb: inner voicings neatly balanced, sounding the appropriate orchestral instrument it reflected.

From an overture, "The Beautiful Galatea," Suppe; a march, "Semper Fidelis," Sousa; a movie theme, "The Entertainer (The Sting)," Joplin and the like, the pieces rendered were simply a hit.

Clapping even heightened their playing to the joy of the audience who pure delight as they relished the familiar tunes they heard.

The pianists forged a strong rapport; they played with burning passion. Amor Caparas emceed the performance and provided brief introduction.

Impeccably tuned, the pianos sounded excellent. Ace piano technician Ignacio "Iggy" Tuason has kept his magic touch not only in tuning but also in maintaining the pianos. He tuned the pianos at the Francisco Santiago Hall concert cited above, which gave even and balanced tones.

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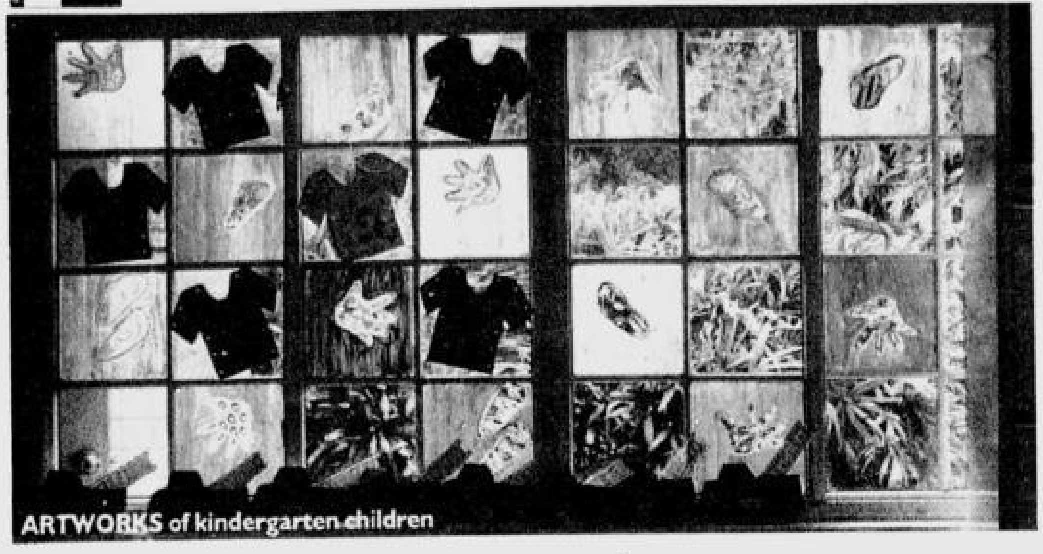
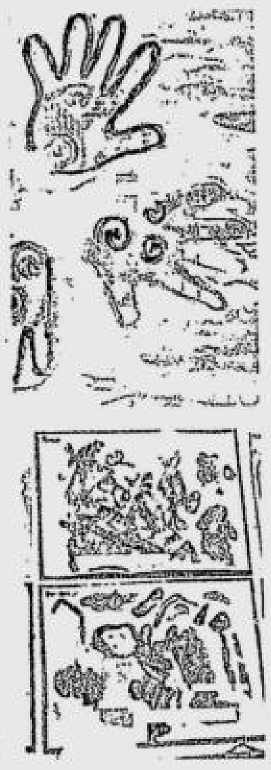


ARTWORKS of kindergarten children

CAMBRIDGE helps kids find out how things work, develop skills in problem-solving and acquire interactive and social capabilities.

Project: New way of learning

A new educational approach builds the confidence to know and learn among children



Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Romy Homillada

HELPING KIDS AGED 18 MONTHS TO 6 years become thinkers and not just passive listeners has been the goal of Cambridge Child Development Centre.

Through its Project Approach curriculum, Cambridge, which has branches in Quezon City, Manila, San Juan and Cebu, teaches children to be systematic, scientific and creative.

An early childhood education program, Project Approach has been adopted by school districts and state programs in the United States and Canada.

"Studies have shown that through Project Approach, learning can be more dynamic, flexible and meaningful for children," says Myra Jiao, directress of Cambridge, at 1 Capitol Drive, Capitol Hills, Quezon City. "The program builds on children's curiosity and interest, ensuring more in-depth learning. It offers them opportunities to relate new information to what they already know from their own experience. They learn to engage in problem-solving and develop confidence in their own capability."

Jiao adds that Project Approach addresses recent findings in brain research, emotional intelligence, multiple intelligences, the role of art and creativity in education and the importance of the classroom as a social context for early learning.

Project Approach and the insight it provides into a child's understanding are valued by teachers. The children go on field trips, then draw sketches of what they had noticed and what had been important to them during their trip.

"In the past, the teachers have had difficulty motivating the children in their class to draw on their own. Some students typically are delayed at least one year and often have multiple impairments. Some had not seen any recognizable shapes in the children's drawings. Putting the drawing in the context of a project helps the teacher to recognize what the child is attempting to draw," Jiao explains. "These drawings that children produce demonstrate their growth and understanding."

Planning

Jiao believes that the most helpful thing about Project Approach is the contribution it makes to planning, "I think it's easier mainly because you have a goal—to see, first of all, what knowledge the children have, where their interests are, and then once you know where they want to go, it's easier to plan along those lines. Planning is based on the children's interests. One way the teachers pick up on the children's interest is by listening to what the children say."

As an administrator, Jiao is very pleased with the effect of Project Approach on her school. When asked how Project Approach has affected teachers, she says, "I think it's made them think of what level the children are on and where they are taking the kids. Instead of cute themes, they really have to look at where the kids are and what they're doing, what they are interested in. And then they have to figure out how to teach it. They can't find that ready-made in a book. In this process, they've had the kids do things that you don't often think about young children doing."

Jiao believes that teachers who use the Project Approach do more work than they would if they were using a traditional curriculum. "In the typical early childhood curriculum, more reliance is placed on books. With this project work, they've got to plan field trips, they've got to be talking to people. They've got to figure out what's hands-on that the children can explore. They have to bring in the stuff that the kids use to create—make things available to the kids beyond papers."

Programs

For toddlers who are 18-30 months, Cambridge Capitol Hills offers a program from 9 to 11 a.m. held three times a week (which costs P50,000/year) or five times a week (P70,000/year). The program includes creative art, science discovery, pre-math activities, fun cookery and tons of play time.

The nursery class for 2½- to 4-year-old kids (P72,000/year) features music and movement, creative language program, phonics, computer-assisted learning, science discovery, creative art and play time.

The kindergarten program for 4-6 years old (P80,000/year) proffers language and spelling, computer-assisted learning, phonics, science discovery, creative art and speech and drama.

The miscellaneous fee of P6,000 covers snacks, materials, field trips and a set of uniform.

Project Approach, Jiao says, has made Cambridge's program "more substantial" and has provided a "more well-rounded hands-on curriculum."

"We're not doing all of the teaching. The children are teaching each other. It seems that we are letting them take more responsibility. They come up with some of the most intelligent things! It's just unbelievable to me what kids this age can do and think," Jiao says.

Call Cambridge Capitol Hills at 931-0372 and 0917-8327365; e-mail capitolhills@cambrige.com.ph. Visit its website at www.cambrige.com.ph/capitolhills

Dr. Sylvia Chard, a leading expert on Project Approach, will conduct a seminar workshop on Sept. 13, 14, and 15, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Amorsolo Hall of Holiday Inn Galleria Manila to demonstrate planning projects, doing field work, investigating people and places, representing new learning, documentation and assessing student learning.

MYRA Jiao (far right) with teachers Mark Joseph Puruganan Jr., Nursery; Eden Destacamento, Toddler; Mary Pia Catherine Yuson, Nursery 1; Lourameh Cañas, Nursery 2; and Jennifer Avila-Agud, Kinder

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-8679, Series of 2007

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UNILAB is TRUSTED QUALITY HEALTHCARE

Medical professionals and consumers from across socio-economic classes agree that in the Philippine pharmaceutical and healthcare industry, one corporate brand stands out as the trusted quality healthcare-Unilab.

This insight was the result of the qualitative study for the Unilab corporate tagline conducted last year by internationally respected research agency Nielsen among consumer groups and doctors. Two consumer groups composed of 20 to 45 year-old male and female from across socio-economic classes who are purchase decision-makers for their families' healthcare needs were involved in the study, while the three doctor groups were composed of general practitioners and specialists with over 10 years of practice. Both stakeholder groups agreed that among the shortlist of corporate taglines tested, "Trusted Quality Healthcare" is most befitting for Unilab.

"*Trusted kasi ang* Unilab, *may karapatan na kasi matagal na sa business*," said a consumer in the verbatim accounts recorded by Nielsen. Another added, "Effective *ang gamot kaya trusted*." Still another, "*Matatag na*. Proven quality!" Another consumer succinctly expressed why he thinks Unilab is and should be trusted, "*Kasi pinapahalagahan niya ang kalusugan mo*."

A doctor also underscored Unilab's heritage in the industry that has made it a trusted brand. "*Matagal na ang* Unilab, *kaya na niyang panindigan*." Addressing a broad base of common and chronic illnesses with Unilab's over 300 brands was also highlighted as a strong point, as expressed by another doctor. "Complete package *siya*. Wide range *ang* products *niya*." Another doctor highlighted Unilab's accessibility to most number of patients without sacrificing safety and efficacy. "Unilab is pro-patient," he said. "They do bioequivalence so you are guaranteed of the quality."

Internal brainstorming

Prior to external stakeholder testing, the search for the Unilab corporate tagline commenced with a series of internal brainstorming workshops participated in by Unilab employee groups consisting of staff, line managers, division heads, and general managers of marketing divisions.

This internal initiative is imperative to the search process because it ensures that Unilab's corporate tagline is accepted and understood by Unilab employees themselves, who are essentially Unilab's ambassadors to external stakeholders such as medical professionals, trade partners, consumers, among others.

The internal workshops yielded an interesting and insightful result: the key words Unilab employees want in the corporate tagline are *trust, quality, health*, and *care*-now all woven into Unilab's new corporate tagline "Trusted Quality Healthcare."

Statement of responsibility

The corporate tagline is a fundamental component of Unilab's corporate branding initiatives. In essence, "Trusted Quality Healthcare" highlights Unilab's character, reason for being, and heritage as the country's largest and leading pharmaceutical and healthcare company. Not only is it about who Unilab is, but more significantly about what Unilab means to the lives of millions of Filipinos served with safe, effective, and affordable healthcare.

More than a claim, therefore, "Trusted Quality Healthcare" is an affirmation of all that the members of the Unilab Family-both past and present-collectively worked hard for in all of its 62-year history, the fruit of unwavering commitment to people's health and wellness.

More than a promise, "Trusted Quality Healthcare" is a constant reminder of the responsibility built into Unilab's mission of helping consumers live the healthy life they deserve. It is, indeed, a statement of responsibility.

Broadway hit "Art" at the Music Museum

AFTER A SUCCESSFUL premiere in Cebu, Yasmina Reza's Broadway and London hit comedy "Art" is set to be staged for a special Manila performance for one night only on Sept. 22, 8 p.m., at the Music Museum, under Bart Guingona's direction.

Produced by Little Boy Productions and Actor's Actors Inc, this new production features Jett Pangan, Michael de Mesa and Ricky Davao.

"Art" is a brilliant comedy about a friendship that is threatened when one member of the *barkada* does something that upsets another member—in this case, buying a painting that he finds "pretentious."

Originally written in French and produced by Sean Connery in London, "Art" has won numerous awards, including the 1998 Tony Award for Best Play and the 1997 Olivier Award for Best Comedy. This new translation by Lito Abaño captures all the humor of the original.

Tickets are available at Ticketworld, 891-9999 or www.ticketworld.com.ph. For sponsorships and group sales, call Hendri, 0917-8155794.

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Disney supports its star despite nude photo

NEW YORK—THE WALT DISNEY Co. is supporting the 18-year-old star of its wildly successful "High School Musical" franchise, despite her "lapse in judgment" in posing for nude photos that were leaked to the Internet.

VANESSA HUDGENS

Vanessa Hudgens apologized Friday for the photos, which show her smiling and standing naked in a bedroom directly in front of the camera.

"I want to apologize to my fans, whose support and trust means the world to me," Hudgens said in a statement issued about a day after the photo surfaced. "I am embarrassed over this situation and regret having ever taken these photos. I am thankful for the support of my family and friends."

Hudgens has starred in "High School Musical" and "High School Musical 2" as Gabriella, the sweet, innocent science geek whose romance with athlete Troy, played by Zac Efron, is chronicled in the two hugely popular made-for-television movies on the squeaky-clean Disney Channel.

The sequel's premiere on Disney Channel last month attracted more than 17 million viewers, making it the summer's most-watched TV program.

Lapse in judgment

"Vanessa has apologized for what was obviously a lapse in judgment," said Disney Channel spokeswoman Patti McTeague. "We hope she's learned a valuable lesson."

She said negotiations were ongoing to land all the actors for a "High School Musical 3" feature film—including Hudgens.

Hudgens' publicist, Jill Fritzo, would not say anything about who took the pictures and how they slipped out onto the Internet.

Earlier on Friday, a representative for Hudgens confirmed the image was of Hudgens but said it "was taken privately."

"It is a personal matter and it is unfortunate that this has become public," the representative said in a statement.

In a Teen magazine interview released earlier this week, Hudgens described herself as "a very private person" with "very good morals" who enjoyed serving as a role model.

Hudgens is a superstar among the preteen set, and Disney has spun a wide merchandising net around the series with albums and concert tours. She and Efron reportedly date in real life, making them big attractions for celebrity magazines.

The films' wholesome nature — for a company that has made its name on family-friendly fare for generations — is a big part of its success.

But some parents of young fans were outraged by the photo, saying it tarnished Hudgens' image.

Record audience

If Disney executives had cut ties with Hudgens, not wanting the company's name associated with anything not G-rated, they would have run the risk of upsetting a formula that has made the company millions upon millions of dollars.

"High School Musical 2" debuted on Disney Channel last month to a record audience of 17.2 million viewers to become the most-watched individual program in cable TV history.

The best thing for Disney was to do nothing, said Michael Levine, a Hollywood image consultant and author of 18 books. *AP, Reuters*

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CHEER FACTOR

Paris Hilton sues Hallmark over catchphrase

LOS ANGELES—Paris Hilton has sued Hallmark Cards Inc. in the US District Court, seeking an injunction and unspecified damages for the use of her picture and catchphrase "That's hot" on a greeting card. Comments Hallmark spokeswoman Julie O'Dell in an e-mailed statement: "These cards take a satirical look at news and gossip surrounding public figures, including Paris Hilton, and we do not believe Hallmark has violated any of Ms Hilton's rights."

AP

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3 indieSine:TRIBU
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 NANCY DREW
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
12:30 2:30 4:30

7 SKINWALKERS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 A LOVE STORY
12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

9 NANCY DREW
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

10 1408
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

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This film project is based on the 2006 Palanca Award winning screnplay, "Tribu", about the violent lives of street gang members, young urban hiphop poets in Tondo, as seen from the eyes of a 10 year old boy. The Proponent, a broadcast journalist, poet, writer and sociologist, produced a short documentray on this hiphop/gangsta phenomenon which aired on national television in 2001. But sensing that the TV feature is not enough, he went back to his Tondo roots and spent more time with various gangs (also called "tribes." Hence, the title), further documenting their experiences and street poetry/hiphop culture. The author / proponent believes that complexities and subtleties of the story of these ppor, yet highly talented urban youth can only truly be told using the more sophisticated language of cinema.

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4 NANCY DREW
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5 A LOVE STORY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 DAY WATCH
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

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12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

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2 A LOVE STORY
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

3 SKINWALKERS
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4 1408
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5 RUSH HOUR 3
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6 THE INVASION
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7 DISTURBIA
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8 NANCY DREW
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

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2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY Sneak Preview

3 SKINWALKERS
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

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12:25 3:10 6:55 8:40

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1 1408
2 CASA
3 THREE
4 THE INVASION

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3 CASA
4 THREE

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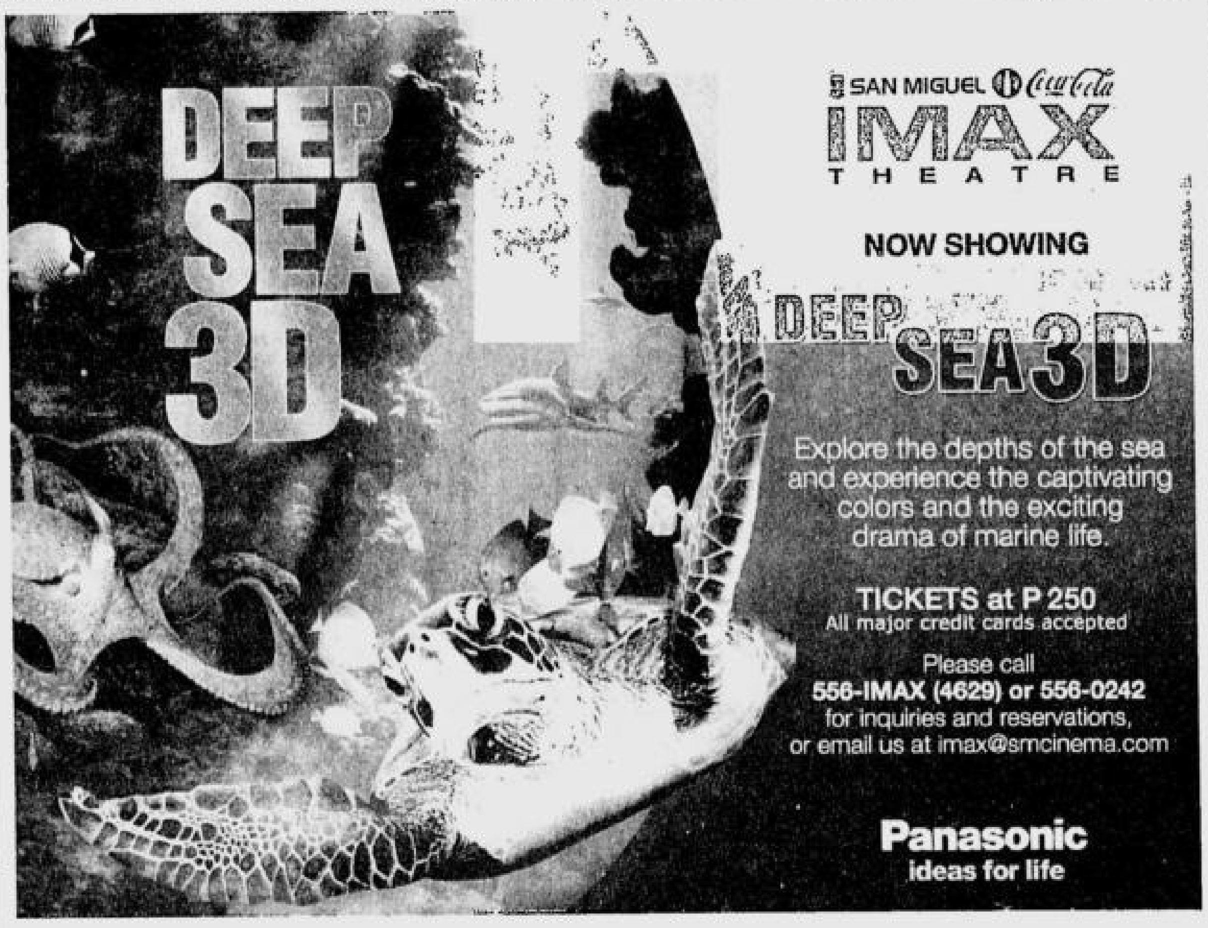

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7 RUSH HOUR 3
8 EVAN ALMIGHTY
9 1408
10 LAST LEGION/ NANCY DREW
11 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
12 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

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2 SKINWALKERS
3 1408
4 GANDHI, MY FATHER
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
6 NANCY DREW
7 DISTURBIA
8 DAY WATCH
9 INVASION
10 A LOVE STORY
11 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
12 EVAN ALMIGHTY

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4 SKINWALKERS
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 LAST LEGION
7 1408
8 A LOVE STORY
9 EVAN ALMIGHTY
10 RUSH HOUR 3
11 DISTURBIA
12 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

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2 1408
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2 SKINWALKERS
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11 DAY WATCH
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6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
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3 RISE
4 A LOVE STORY
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6 SINKING OF JAPAN

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2 RISE
3 OSS 117
4 1408
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Movie treats and tricks

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

OF THE THREE FILMS WE'VE seen recently, it's "Hairspray" that hits the spot. The musical film does more than bring the music and pop culture of the '60s back to life, it also scores points for relevance as it recalls the shaky start of the Civil Rights movement.

The film uses a TV dance program in Baltimore as the sticking ground for its anti-racist drama. The dance context makes it easy for the movie to come up with energetic production numbers that make it a visually and aurally exciting production.

On the debit side, the movie tries too hard to vivify the standard sound of the '60s, so many of its songs end up sounding too similar to each other. Genuine '60s musicals like "Bye Bye Birdie" featured a wider range of musical impulses, to more dynamic effect.

"Hairspray" boasts of vivid portrayals by **Nikki Blonsky, Michelle Pfeiffer, James Maraden** and **Christopher Walken**, with only **John Travolta** flubbing it with his heavy-handed crossdressing portrayal of Walken's laundress-wife. The film's best suit is its anti-racial stance, vivified by an anthem for equality passionately sung by **Queen Latifah**.

JOHN Travolta with Nicole Blonsky in "Hairspray"

Novel premise

On the other hand, "Evan Almighty" has a novel premise, but doesn't take full advantage of its comic and thematic possibilities.

Steve Carell plays a new state representative whose dreams of higher political office are shattered when God, in the person of **Samuel L. Jackson**, orders him to drop everything and build an ark, because a second deadly flood is coming.

Naturally, Carell's character brushes the divine order aside, until God unleashes his powers of persuasion in no uncertain terms. So the state official finally does God's bidding, and looks like a fool in the process—until God's dire prediction does come to pass.

The film enchants with its colorful menagerie of all sorts of animals, from mice to elephants, who heed God's call to gravitate to where the politician turned neo-Noah is building his ark. But the movie's comedy quotient is less entertaining, because it sticks to the easy and the obvious.

This is a glitch in Carell's high-flying TV-film career, and a timely reminder that even popular stars can't rest on their laurels and hit film, and must work hard on every assignment, as though it were their last.

Sensitive fulcrum

For a major change of pace, **Nicole Kidman** stars in the sci-fi chiller, "The Invasion." The film's story hinges on the return of a space shuttle that infects the world's population with a deadly "virus" from outer space that eats up its victims' bodies, or turns them into automatons.

Kidman herself gets infected, but avoids complete subservience by refusing to fall asleep. It appears that the mass infection does its worst when people aren't awake.

To its credit, "The Invasion" is full of terrifying and exciting twists and turns, and Kidman's portrayal provides the production with the firm and sensitive fulcrum it needs. Despite these plus points, however, the film fails to come into its own as a unified whole because its premise isn't set into motion all that logically, and more questions are raised than are answered.

'Oprah'

On the Hallmark Channel, "The Oprah Winfrey Show" highlights some extraordinary women's inspiring stories: Sept. 16, **Annette Bening** guests.

Sept. 22 at 3 p.m., **Sarah Jessica Parker** and **Victoria Nagan** talk about fashion and home design. At 8 p.m., **Oprah** interviews "maturing" women **Diahann Carroll, Geena Davis** and **Nora Ephron**. Sept. 30, the focus is on "Hairspray" stars Michelle Pfeiffer, Nikki Blonsky and Queen Latifah.

Homecoming

The 2008 homecoming of alumni of St. Joseph's School-Pandacan, Manila, will be held today at the SJS grounds. Entertainment will be provided by **Erik Santos, Mariel Rodriguez** and **Boy Abunda**. Call Carmina Ducusin-Cabral at 559-0399 or Bong Quintana at 435-1120 or 08.

Feedback

From Pompeyo Pedroche, New Jersey, USA: "I like reading your column because you don't write about trivia, but on the relevant and fundamental tenets of show biz ethics, art and principles. I also know you're not obsessed about promoting yourself. Through you, I would like to call the attention of GMA 7 on some communication lapses on two of its shows:

"It's no big deal to mispronounce a few English words (chasm, genre, bosom, attache, vineyard) in private conversation. However, when the mistakes are aired on TV on a regular basis, the blunders should not be ignored. Another instance: The word perpetuity was recently accented on the second syllable (per-PE-tuity) instead of the third (perpe-TU-ity), which is the correct way. *Salamat!*"

Manay Ichu is Gawad Urian's lifetime achievement awardee

FILM INDUSTRY STALWART MARICHU P. Maceda will receive the Natatanging Gawad for Lifetime Achievement from the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino during the 30th Gawad Urian on Sept. 13 at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater of the Ateneo de Manila University.

The Manunuri, the society of film critics, is giving the award to Maceda for her long years of leadership in the movie industry, resulting in the institution of policies, programs and even agencies catering to the needs and interests of movie professionals.

Maceda, "Manay Ichu" to movie workers, was behind the establishment of the Film Academy of the Philippines in the 1980s. She worked tirelessly for the formation of guilds covering the different aspects of the movie profession. These guilds now form the FAP.

Maceda was also instrumental in the passage of Republic Act 9167, the law that created the Film Development Council of the Philippines, which formulates programs and grants incentives to improve the quality of Filipino movies.

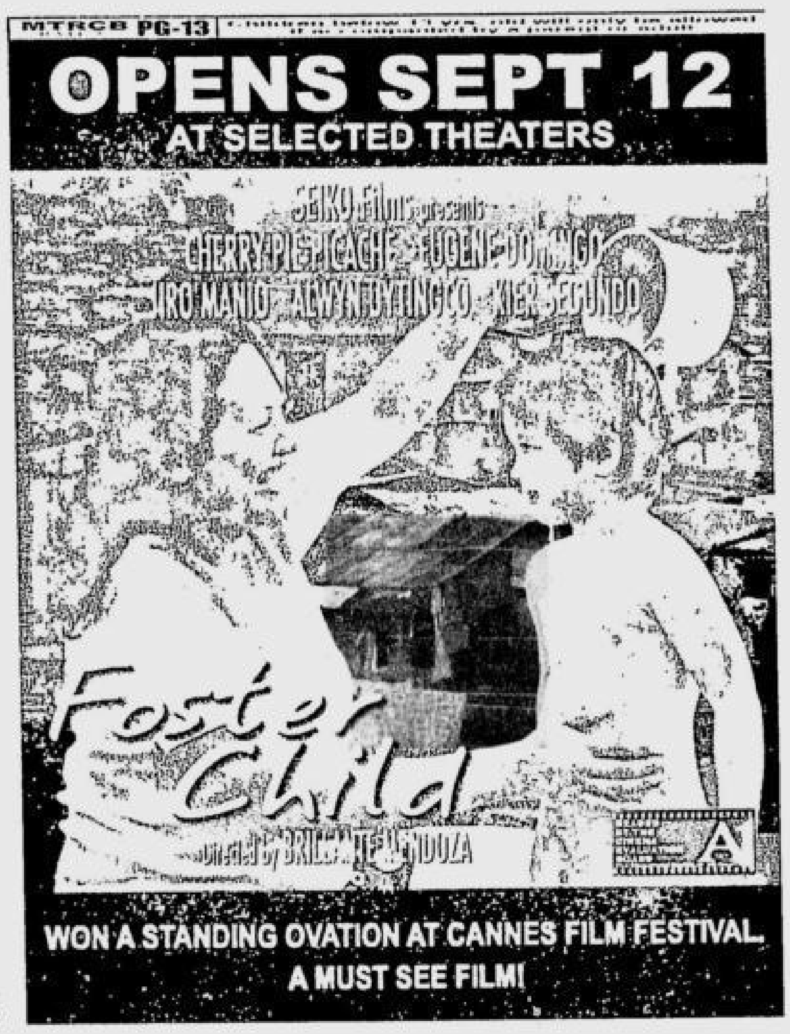
The council has formed the Cinema Evaluation Board, which evaluates and grades films submitted to it and depending on the ratings, grants them incentives.

Belonging to the Vera-Perez clan, the family behind Sampaguita studios, Maceda was also a producer. She produced Mike de Leon's "Batch '81," one of the greatest Filipino films of all time.

The 30th Gawad Urian ceremonies will be produced by APT Productions and will be broadcast on channel 9.

Meanwhile, the Manunuri has announced the nominees for best short film: "Talahib" (E.J. Salcedo), "Tsinelas" (Mes de Guzman), "Silid" (Yeye Calderon), "Nang Matapos ang Ulan" (Lav Diaz), "Gabon" (Emmanuel de la Cruz), "Doble Vista" (Nisha Alicer and Nix Lañas), "Putot" (Jhek Cogama), "Orasyon" (Milo Tolentino), "Misteryo ng Hapis" (Mark de la Cruz), and "Mga Bagay na May Pakpak" (Katrin Escay at Moshe Ladanga).

Nominated for best picture are "Huling Balyan ng Buhi" (CPI/Cinemaone Originals); "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo" (Star Cinema); "Kaleldo" (Centerstage Productions); "Kubrador" (MLR Films); "Manoro" (Centerstage Productions); "Todos, Todos, Teros" (John Torres); "Rome and Juliet" (CPI/Cinemaone Originals).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	4 ARE WE DONE YET?	5 THE INVASION	6 NANCY DREW	7 1408
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GREENBELT	Jazz Nights September 12, 2007 at GB 2 Al Fresco
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AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 PM; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Lactum Mall Show September 8 & 9, 2007 at the Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Antiqueños: Homage to my Kasimanwas August 28 to September 10, 2007 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Samsung Exhibit An exhibit of the latest Samsung mobile phones September 14 to 16; 10am to 9 pm; Starbucks / Food Choices Level 2

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From homeless kid to king of the charts

SEAN KINGSTON

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—BABY-FACED, Miami born, Jamaican-bred Sean Kingston, 17, who appears to be a happy-go-lucky type, is actually an old soul with a young heart.

"I like that description," he said during a recent interview at the Sony/BMG office in Santa Monica.

Wearing a Billionaire Club cap backwards, loose shirt, denims and recent signs of his newfound wealth and popularity—a huge G-Shock sports watch, a silver necklace, and matching silver bracelet to complete his superstar look—Sean is the world's latest music sensation.

He has the numbers to prove it. His debut single, "Beautiful Girls," is No. 1 in MySpace, iTunes, AOL Music, Yahoo Music, the No: 1 Verizon ring tone and No. 1 on Billboard's Hot 100 where it remained for five consecutive weeks.

Recently, Sean toppled Kanye West off the top of the UK chart, pushing the American rapper's "Stronger" single down to number two.

Breaking all formulas

The charming teener, who started writing and composing music when he was only 10, is also breaking all formulas: He has created a new genre where rap, reggae, pop and doo-wop are combined; he does not use profanity in his songs; he broke into show business by spamming himself in MySpace and was soon getting a million hits a day for his song; and he loves to "sound old but look young."

He tried to get the attention of record producer J.R. Rotem of the Beluga Heights label by writing to him three times a day for weeks. "I just kept on e-mailing him and telling him to check my music on MySpace. Until finally, he replied, listened to my music and signed me up," Sean revealed.

His first single, "Beautiful Girls," recently won the Teen Choice 2007 award for Choice Music R&B Track. "It is universal in nature since it tells of one falling in love and getting heartbroken, because one's love doesn't live up to your expectations," he explained.

Yes, he has fallen in and out of love. "I was going out with the most beautiful girl in school for two years but then she cheated on me with my best friend," he revealed.

Raised in Kingston, Jamaica, Sean said he had a rough childhood.

"I had a hard life," he confessed. "There was a time when I was living in a car with my mom. We were homeless and I was growing up faster than I should have. When I was 14, my mother was arrested for tax evasion. I am really close to my mom so when she was arrested, a big part of me was taken away, too.

"My older sister stayed with me but then was also taken away for her involvement in my mother's crime. I slept on a bench in a bus stop for some time until I found refuge with an aunt in Boynton Beach, Florida."

Although he disclosed that his sister was released after four months, his mom is still serving time.

Turning the negative into positive, Sean started writing music. "I turned to music and kept myself motivated. I used all these stuff as my motivation and it got me to where I am today," he disclosed.

He added, "I like it when I know people are reacting to my music. I love to write music that will connect with the fans, whether they are 15 or 35 years old," he pointed out.

Staying clean and pure

Sean explained that he does not use profanity as he wants to be a role model to kids and "stay clean and pure."

He said he probably got his father's hustler mentality. He explained, "When my father wants something, he will do everything to get it. If he wants a Bentley, he will cut grass to be able to get that Bentley. Just like me. If I want a record deal, I will not stop until I get a record deal. I will focus. I will push myself for it."

If he had three wishes, what they would be?

"I wish my mom would get out of jail as soon as possible. I wish my album would go platinum. And I wish I would be a great artist."

Email the writer at jrnepales_624@yahoo.com.

Life's not all a comedy

By Marinel R. Cruz

WHILE EUGENE DOMINGO IS CONSIDered one of the funniest actors in local show biz today, it's surprising that very little laughter was heard during this interview with INQUIRER Entertainment.

"I'm the serious type. I'm calm," said Eugene, a theater arts graduate of the University of the Philippines. "People are used to seeing me clowning around on TV and in the movies. If I'm like that in real life, I'd get a heart attack."

Known for her hilarious performances in comedies like "Ang Cute ng Ina Mo" and "'D Lucky Ones," Eugene tackles a different role—that of a social worker—in Dante Mendoza's "Foster Child."

The film, which premiered in the Director's Fortnight section of the prestigious Cannes International Film Festival in May, explores the state of foster care in the Philippines.

Aside from "Foster Child," Eugene was also in the cast of Aureaus Solito's "Pisay" (2007) and "Tuli" (2005).

EUGENE DOMINGO

You described what you've done in independent films as something totally different from your mainstream work. How was it different?

Ever since I became known as a comedian, I felt as if people always expected me to play funny roles. At least in indie films, I get to play roles that I consider more challenging. Indie films are very much like theater for me—it's refreshing, it's a breather. As an actor, I need balance. I don't want to be identified with just one genre. I will be bored to death.

As an actor, the challenge in working on "Foster Child" was that I was told not to act. I had to believe that I was indeed Bianca, the social worker. I had to believe that the situations around me were actually happening. That helps me forget that I'm acting.

I portray the role of a teacher in "Pisay." I feel flattered whenever alumni of Philippine Science High School come up to me and tell me I remind them of their years in the school. I just feel funny to be a Science teacher because I used to fail my science subjects in high school.

Even though my daughter in the movie "Tuli" fell in love with another woman, my character did not disown the child. I'm like her in the sense that I'm never judgmental.

You like to involve yourself with issues that are troubling the industry. Do you think all actors should do the same?

I choose my battles. I strongly feel that if our children would get nothing from television but vulgarity, *sayang lang ang* airtime; let's all stop watching TV. I hope we'd come up with more children's shows. I hope we'd make TV viewing more worthwhile.

Training and discipline in theater are very different from TV and the movies. How do you handle co-workers who are incompetent and unprofessional?

I'm very fortunate that so far, I've not encountered actors who are unprofessional. When I first worked on TV, I was lucky to have been able to work with the likes of Claudine Barretto, Gloria Romero and Robert Arevallo, who are all pros.

But in this business, a degree in theater arts doesn't really matter. What counts is your work attitude. I'm the type who really follows schedules. *Ayaw ko nang pabago-bago.* I get frustrated with co-workers who are unable to deliver because they're irresponsible. I get turned off by actors who arrive late on the set; although this really doesn't affect my performance.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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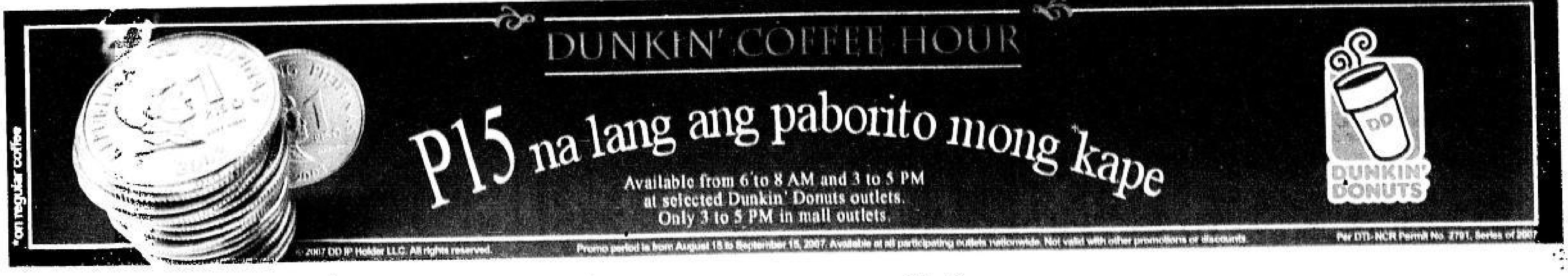
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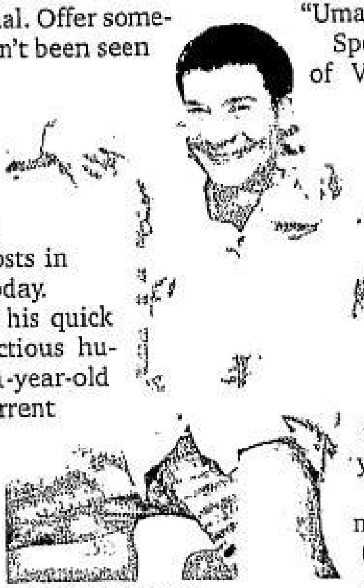
DUNKIN' DONUTS

Edu: A good TV host lets guests shine

By Marinel R. Cruz

"IF YOU WANT TO EXCEL AS A host, be original. Offer something that hasn't been seen or heard of."


EDU MANZANO

The valuable tip is from Edu Manzano, one of the busiest TV hosts in the country today.

Known for his quick wit and infectious humor, the 51-year-old actor and current chair of the Optical Media Board hosts two game shows on ABS-CBN—"1 vs 100" and "Game KNB?"—plus the early morning variety program "Umagang Kay Ganda."

Speaking at the launch of V-Go energy drink, which he endorses, Edu told the entertainment press: "Another secret of effective hosting is, be a good listener. You should just be reacting to your guests; you let them shine."

Edu said he admired Jon Stewart ("The Daily Show") for the latter's "ability to converse intelligently about any subject—politics, entertainment, even literature."

He said he liked David Letterman's "impeccable timing and off-the-wall style—a little

EDU/ G2

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4	1408 1:00, 3:20, 5:45 PG-13	CHUCK & LARRY 8:35, 11:00 R-13

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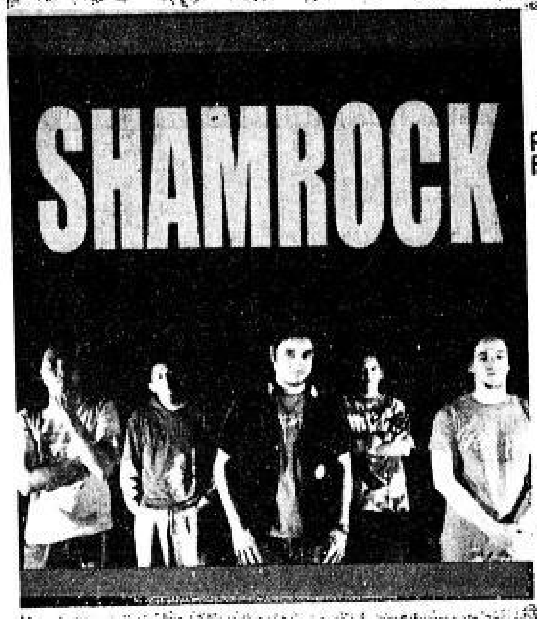
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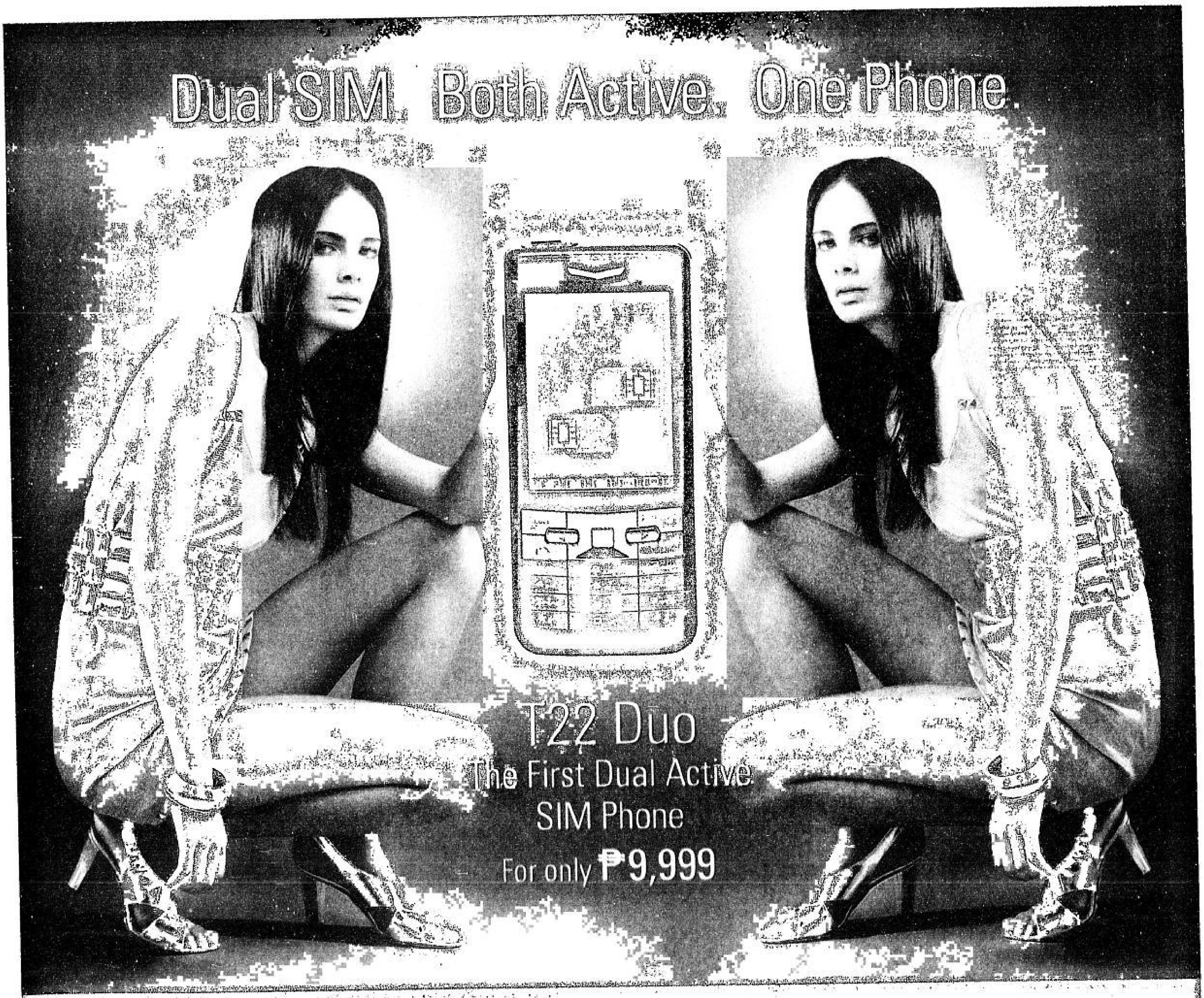
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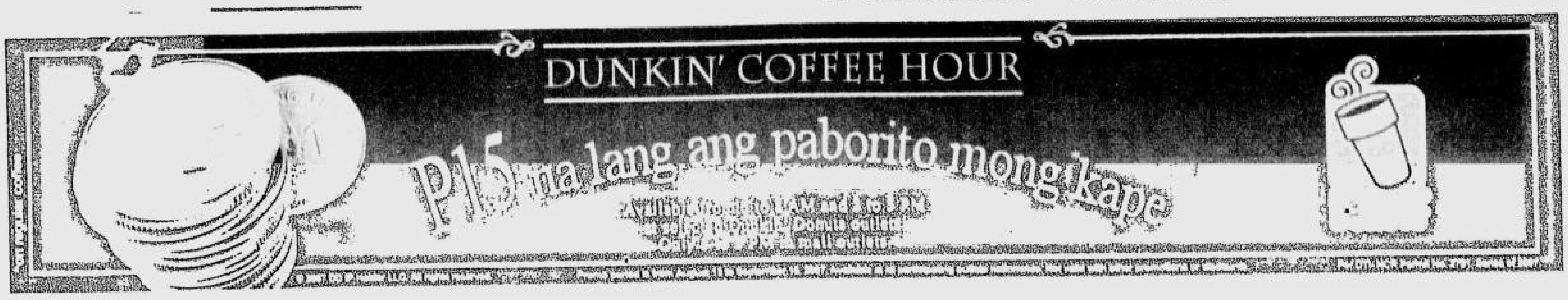
DUNKIN' COFFEE HOUR

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Edu

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EDU MANZANO

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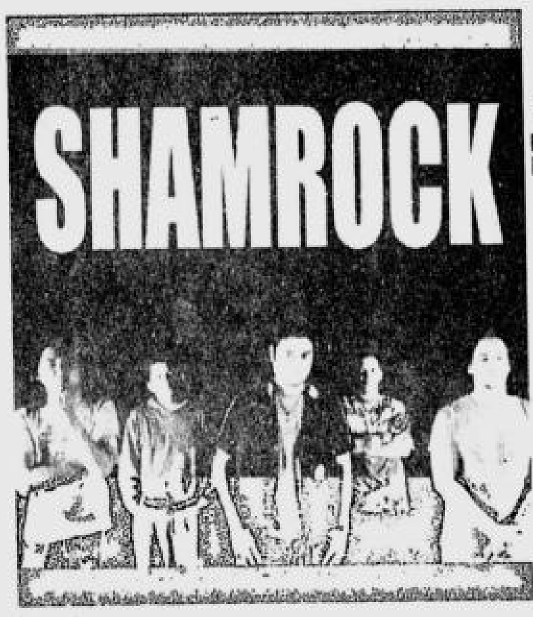
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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Edu: A good TV host . . .

From page G1

acer bic. I like that."

Other TV hosts on Edu's list include Oprah Winfrey and Barbara Walters.

On the other hand, Edu's colleagues like his style. Bernadette Sembrano, a co-host on "UKG," describes him as "a natural."

John Lapus, of the talk program "Showbiz Central," says Edu is "my male counterpart—spontaneous, funny, witty and smart."

For Rica Peralejo, another "UKG" co-host, says Edu is the "best host in the country."

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-La Plaza / EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
1 (DOLBY) NANCY DREW
2 (DOLBY) I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
3 (DOLBY) DISTURBIA
4 (DOLBY) DAY WATCH
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) EVAN ALMIGHTY HAIRSPRAY

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, China Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 INVATION / CHUCK & LARRY
2 DISTURBIA
3 NANCY DREW
4 SKINWALKERS

starmall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266180
3 LAST LEGION
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BOURNE ULTIMATUM
5 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433994
1 A LOVE STORY
2 DISTURBIA
3 DAY WATCH
4 SKINWALKERS

THEATRES
1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 MY KUYAS WEDDING
3 PLANET TERROR

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660-5271
1 MY KUYAS WEDDING
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMAS
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 1408
2 DISTURBIA
3 NANCY DREW
4 CHUCK & LARRY (SNEAK PREVIEW)
5 SKINWALKERS
6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 DAY WATCH
8 MY KUYAS WEDDING
9 A LOVE STORY
10 RUSH HOUR - 3

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) A LOVE STORY
2 (DOLBY) DISTURBIA
3 (DOLBY) NANCY DREW
4 (DOLBY) PLEASE CALL

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 MY KUYAS WEDDING
5 DAY WATCH

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 RUSH HOUR - 3
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 A LOVE STORY
4 DIN'T LOOK BACK

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SKINWALKERS
2 DISTURBIA
3 MY KUYAS WEDDING

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4449346)
1 RUSH HOUR - 3
2 PLANET TERROR

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 RISE
2 MY KUYAS WEDDING
3 SINKING JAPAN
4 THREE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 RUSH HOUR - 3
2 MY KUYAS WEDDING

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6163 or 72
1 (DOLBY) DAY WATCH
2 (DOLBY) DISTURBIA
3 (DOLBY) NANCY DREW
4 (DOLBY) 1408 / CHUCK & LARRY

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 MY KUYAS WEDDING
2 1408
3 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR - 3
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 MY KUYAS WEDDING
3 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR - 3

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 RUSH HOUR - 3
2 A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY) EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 LICENSE TO WED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 1408
2 RUSH HOUR - 3
3 (DOLBY) MY KUYAS WEDDING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 MY KUYAS WEDDING
2 RUSH HOUR - 3

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 RUSH HOUR - 3
2 A LOVE STORY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SINKING JAPAN
2 MASARAP NA PUGAD
3 SARIWA
4 RUSH HOUR - 3

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) SINKING JAPAN
2 TAGINIT
3 1408
4 KAPAG DUMIKIT KUMAKAPIT
5 RUSH HOUR - 3

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RISE BLOOD HUNTER
4 RUSH HOUR - 3

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2 PLEASE CALL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net

Gateway ALIMALL FarmersPlaza
gatewaymall.com.ph

Gateway CINEPLEX*10
ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

DISTURBIA 12:55 / 3:05 / 5:15 / 7:25 / 9:50	NANCY DREW 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50	DAY WATCH 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20	
LAST LEGION 2:35 / 7:15 1408 12:15 / 4:55 / 9:50	SKINWALKERS 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50	..CHUCK & LARRY 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	
THE INVASION 1:10 / 3:10 / 9:50	WAITRESS 1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50	A LOVE STORY 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	DISTURBIA 4:45 / 9:00 NANCY DREW 2:40 / 6:50

ALIMALL 5

1	DISTURBIA 12:10R3 / 1:40 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 8:10	2	RUSH HOUR 3 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45	3	NANCY DREW 11:50 / 2:05 / 4:20 / 6:35 / 8:40
4	A LOVE STORY 12:20 / 3:00 / 5:40 / 8:20	5	SKINWALKERS 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45		DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com

BE BENCH THE MODEL SEARCH
September 11, Tuesday 7pm

NCAA FINAL FOUR
September 12, Wednesday
10 am CSJL vs SBC Jrs 12nn SSC-R vs JRU Jrs
2 pm CSJL vs JRU Srs 4 pm SBC vs MIT Srs

POWER PLANT CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

DAY WATCH R13 12:00,2:30,5:10,7:50	THE INVASION PG13 1:00,3:15	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY R13 12:50,3:15,5:30, 7:55,10:20
NANCY DREW G 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10	SKIN WALKERS R18 1:40,3:50,6:00,8:10	DISTURBIA PG13 12:35,2:55,5:15, 7:35,10:20

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ONE NATION...
UNDER DOG
WALT DISNEY
Underdog

BOW WOW FUN SHOW

DRESS 'EM UP UNDERDOG STYLE

Bring your cute pet dogs in a superhero costume and get special prizes.

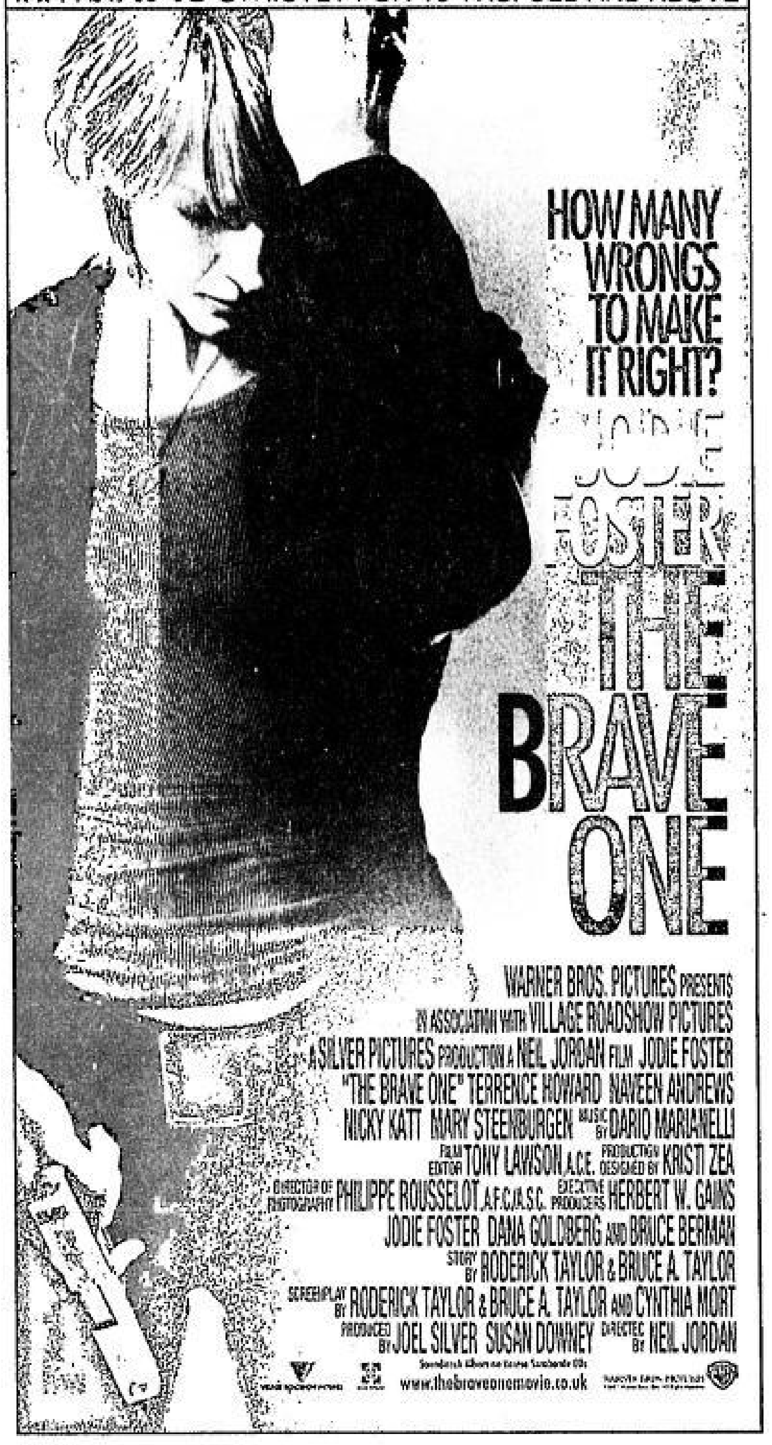
Major Prizes and other special awards tobe given as follows:
BOW WOW Champ and runners up
Master & pet look-alike
Most Talented Buddy
BOW WOW Eater

BOW WOW Fun Show is on SEPT. 15 (Sat.) 2PM at Orosa Atrium, Robinsons Place, Manila

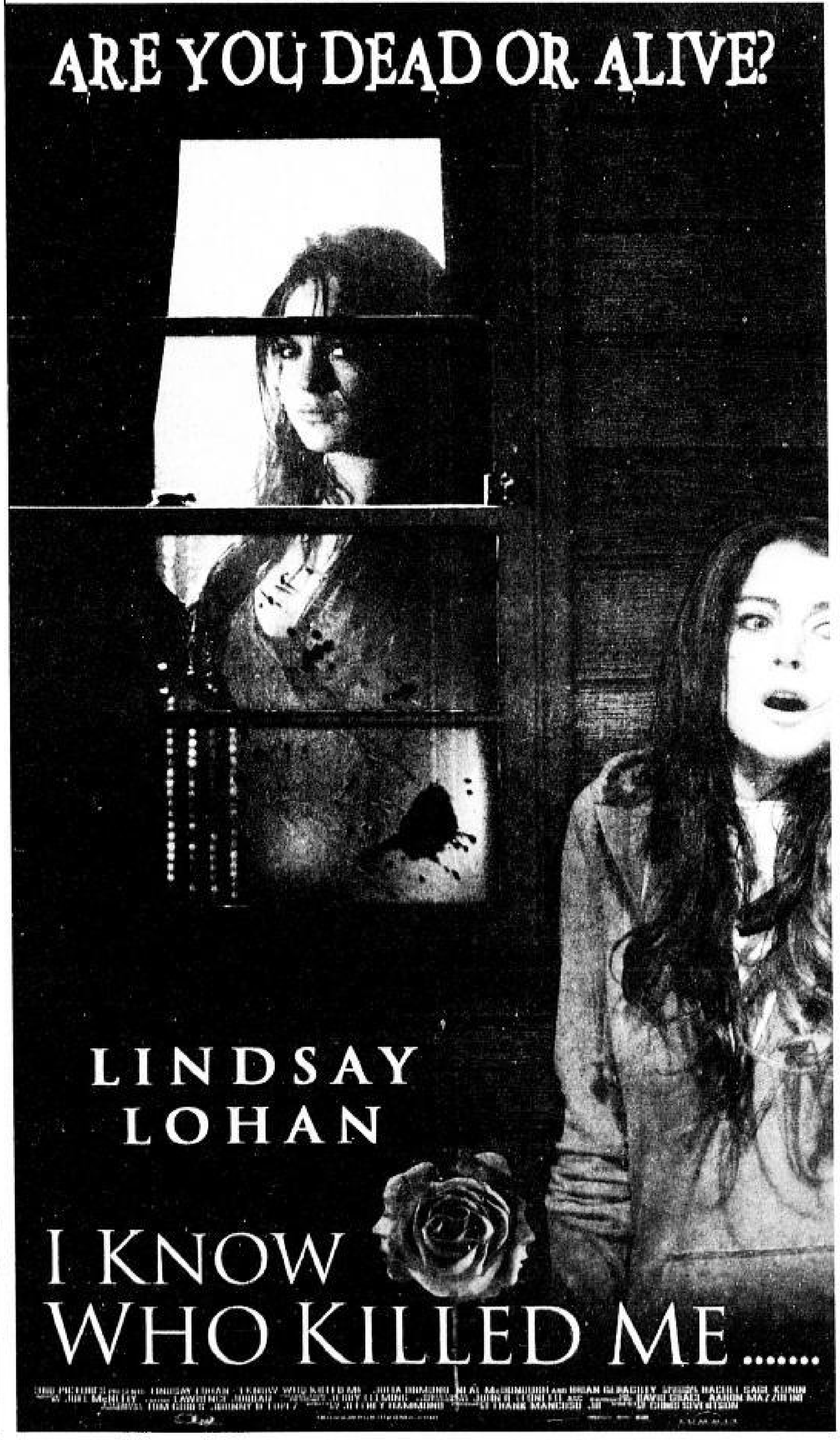
**Registration Forms are now available at all Handyman Do-it-Best Home Center Outlets*

OPENS SEPTEMBER 12

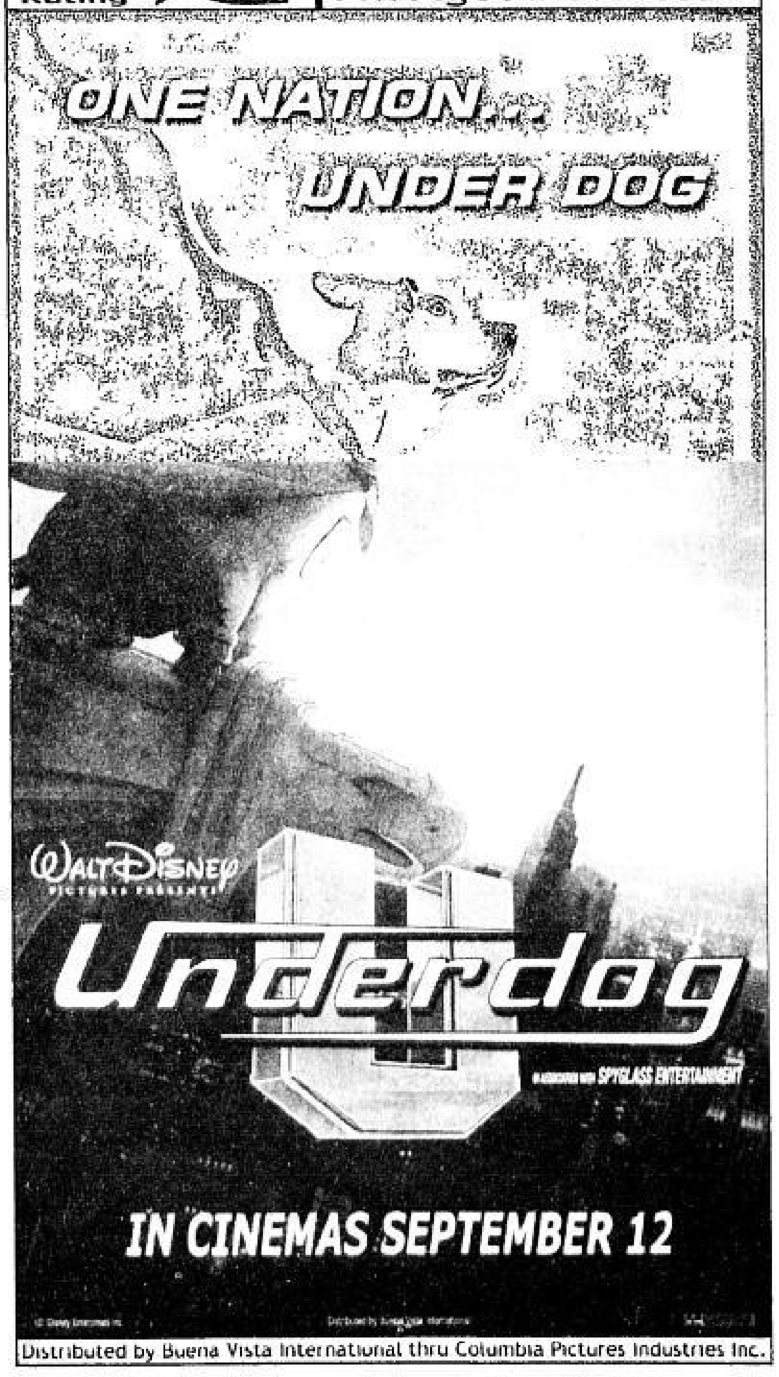
MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YRS. OLD AND ABOVE


HOW MANY WRONGS TO MAKE IT RIGHT?
JODIE FOSTER
THE BRAVE ONE
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES
A SILVER PICTURES PRODUCTION A NEIL JORDAN FILM JODIE FOSTER
"THE BRAVE ONE" TERRENCE HOWARD NAVEEN ANDREWS
NICKY KATT MARY STEENBURGEN MUSIC BY DARIO MARIANELLI
FILM EDITOR TONY LAWSON, A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNED BY KRISTI ZEA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PHILIPPE ROUSSELOT, A.F.C./A.S.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS HERBERT W. GAINS
JODIE FOSTER DANA GOLDBERG AND BRUCE BERMAN
STORY BY RODERICK TAYLOR & BRUCE A. TAYLOR
SCREENPLAY BY RODERICK TAYLOR & BRUCE A. TAYLOR AND CYNTHIA MORT
PRODUCED BY JOEL SILVER SUSAN DOWNEY DIRECTED BY NEIL JORDAN
www.thebraveonemovie.co.uk

OPENS SEPT. 12


ARE YOU DEAD OR ALIVE?
LINDSAY LOHAN
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME......

MTRCB Rating ▶ G | All Ages Admitted


ONE NATION...
UNDER DOG
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
Underdog
IN ASSOCIATION WITH SPYGLASS ENTERTAINMENT
IN CINEMAS SEPTEMBER 12

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures Industries Inc.

Pop and classical at George Tagle's first major concert

"SALUTE TO GEORGE: First Major Concert with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra" features classical singer George Sison Tagle on Sept. 13 at the Crowne Plaza Grand Ballroom, Ortigas Center, Pasig.

GEORGE Tagle

The concert will showcase Tagle's versatility as he mixes classical and pop, as well as interpret R&B, jazz and standards material.

Guest artists include Ivy Violan, pianist Angelo Ortiz, soprano Rachelle Gerodias, young singer Carla Humphries, and Cinco Angelos—an all-male group of classical pop tenors. Musical director is Gerry Matias.

Proceeds will benefit the Alay sa Kawal Foundation. Call 9115615 or 4387200 for tickets.

'Power To Unite'

Donna Cruz Larrazabal performs musical numbers and shares the spiritual life of her family on Sept. 11 in "Power To Unite with Elvira," a new TV show that airs Tuesdays, 7:00-7:30 p.m. on NBN 4.

A combined religious and entertainment program hosted by Elvira Yap-Go, "Power To Unite" premiered recently and featured His Eminence Ricardo Cardinal J. Vidal showing his lighter side; Nanette Inventor talking about her single-blessedness; and the Tundang Family, regional winners of the 2nd National Catholic Family Bible Quiz, sharing how God works in their lives.

'Let's Kick Some BrASS!'

The CompanY joins forces with the UP Jazz Ensemble in a big band concert, "Let's Kick Some BrASS!" debuting on Sept. 15, 8 p.m. at the Davao Convention and Trade Center, Davao City.

Gala performance is on Oct. 13, 8 p.m. at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Tickets for the Davao concert are available at LBC Performing Arts Center (tel. 3005844), Novie Boutique (2223867), Export Bank (2270865) and Lanang Business Inn (2215847/2215864).

For the CCP date, call 8323704/8321125 loc. 1409/1410 or log on to ticketworld.com.

Ka Freddie at LA Cafe

Folk music icon Freddie Aguilar performs on Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 22 at LA Cafe, corner M.H. Del Pilar and Salas Streets, Ermita, Manila.

John Ford Coley's tour

John Ford Coley returns to the Philippines on a five-city concert tour dubbed "Just Tell Me You Love Me."

The tour opens on Oct. 12 at the Aliw Theater, CCP Complex, Pasay City.

Call Ticketworld at 9115555 or Ticketnet at 8919999.

SHOW TIME

Tonight

Switchfoot, 7:30 p.m. at Cuneta Astrodome, Pasay City.

Gimme A Break (7-8 p.m.) and Art Manuntag (10-12 mn) at RJTV Bar, 28 Jupiter St. Bel-Air, Makati. Call 8991658 for inquiries/reservations.

Romy Posadas at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3, Makati. Call 7574720 and 7574721.

DONNA Cruz-Larrazabal and TV host Elvira Yap-Go

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 NANCY DREW MTRCB GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY MTRCB R-13 12:00, 2:30 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
3 DISTURBIA MTRCB PG-13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
4 DAY WATCH MTRCB R-13 1:20, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00

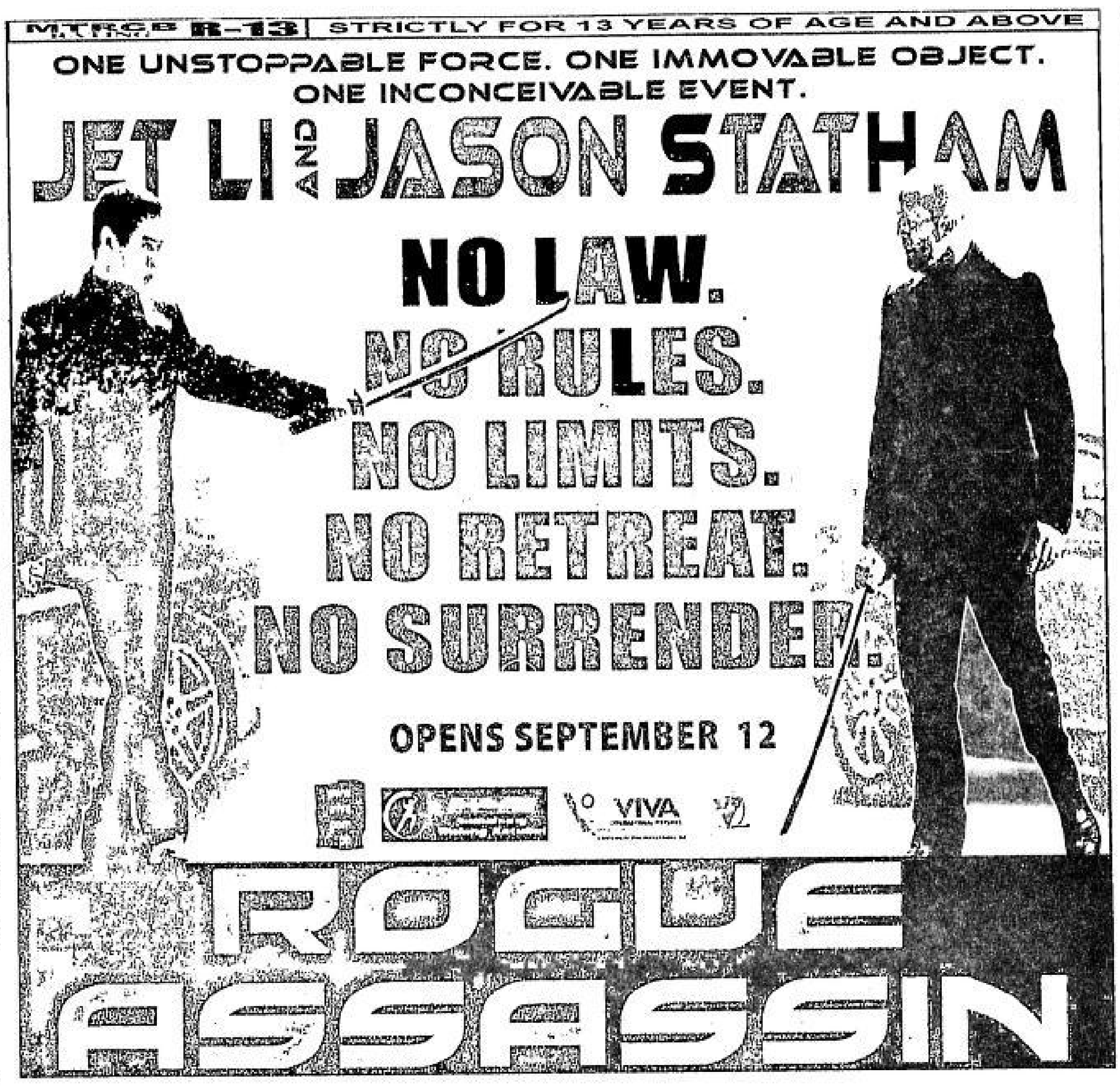
PREMIERE THEATRE EVAN ALMIGHTY (GP) 1:20, 3:30 / HAIRSPRAY (GP) 6:00, 8:30

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

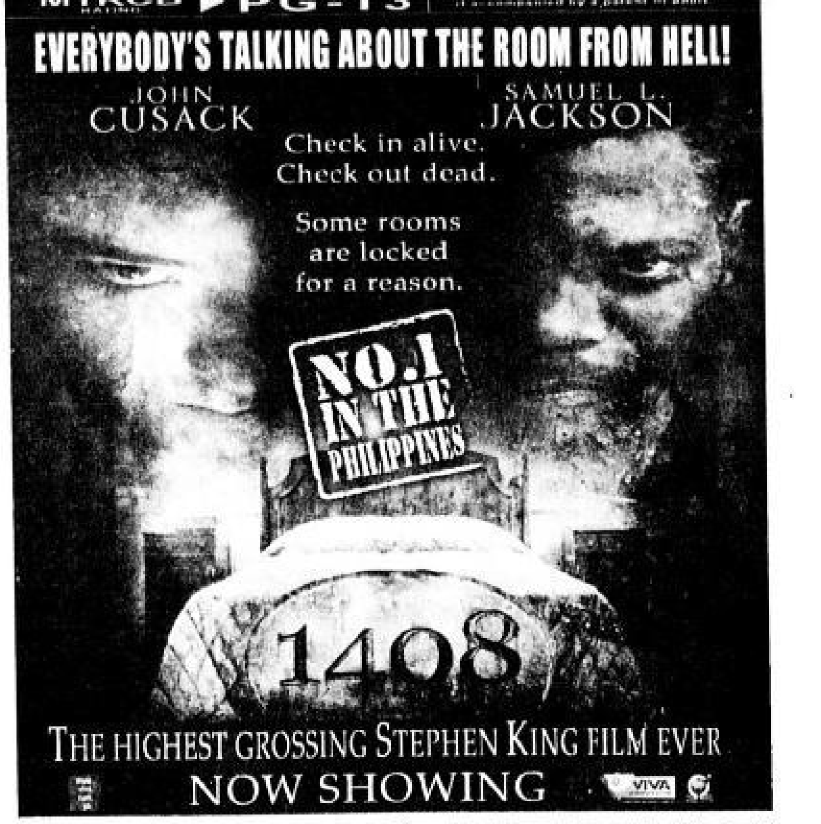
Catch the Cineplex Special
Watch the Sneak Preview of
"I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY"
on September 10-11, 2007 (Monday & Tuesday)
only at the Shang!!
call 633-2227 or 633-7851 loc. 171 for more details.

6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-7851, loc. 171/ 170 or 633-2227
for more details

Shangri-La Plaza


MTRCB R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
ONE UNSTOPPABLE FORCE. ONE IMMOVABLE OBJECT.
ONE INCONCEIVABLE EVENT.
JET LI AND JASON STATHAM
NO LAW.
NO RULES.
NO LIMITS.
NO RETREAT.
NO SURRENDER.
OPENS SEPTEMBER 12
VIVA
ROGUE ASSASSIN

CONGRATULATIONS
LESLIE FAY TAN &
RONALDO SAPLALA
for winning a trip to the province of their choice...
and KRISTAL KIRBY GO
for getting a free ride home in this brand new Starlaser 110-II motorbike!
25 DAYS LEFT
for the chance to win an ACER FERRARI LAPTOP!
For more details, LOG ON to
97.9 dot MANILA HOME RADIO
www.HomeRadio979.FM


MTRCB PG-13
EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT THE ROOM FROM HELL!
JOHN CUSACK
SAMUEL L. JACKSON
Check in alive.
Check out dead.
Some rooms are locked for a reason.
NO.1 IN THE PHILIPPINES
1408
THE HIGHEST GROSSING STEPHEN KING FILM EVER
NOW SHOWING
VIVA

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

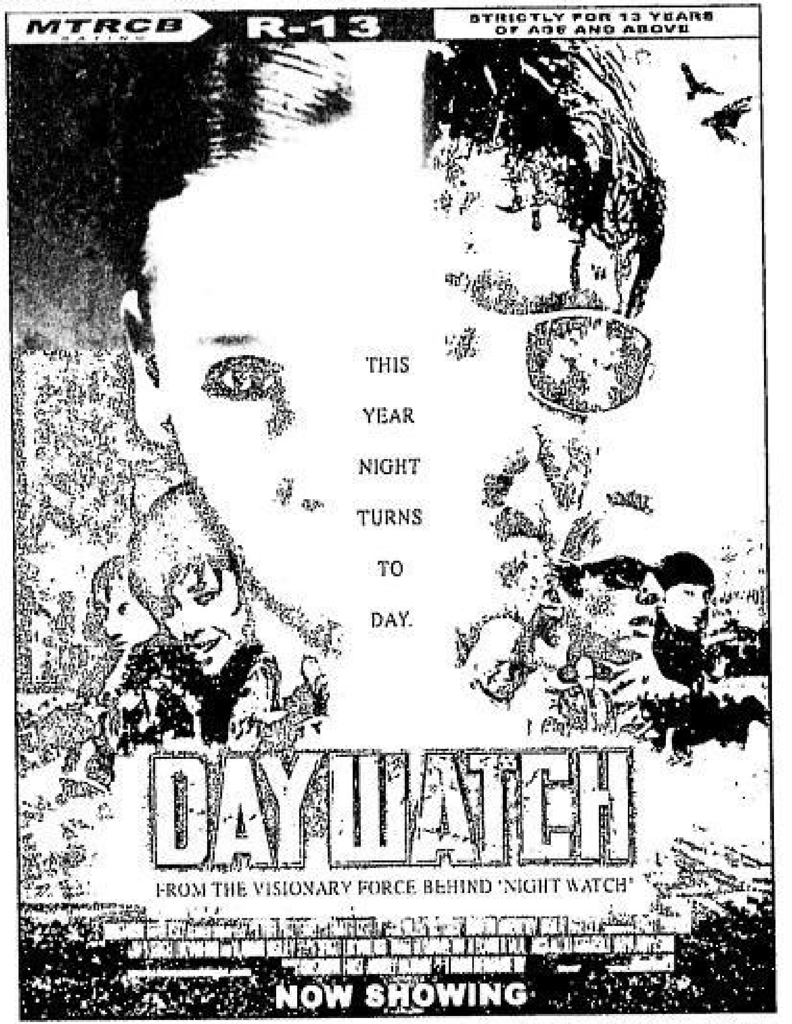
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 1408 // THE INVASION 11:50, 2:05, 4:20 // 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 PG-13
CINEMA 2 DAY WATCH 11:50, 2:35, 5:15 7:55, 10:30 R-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

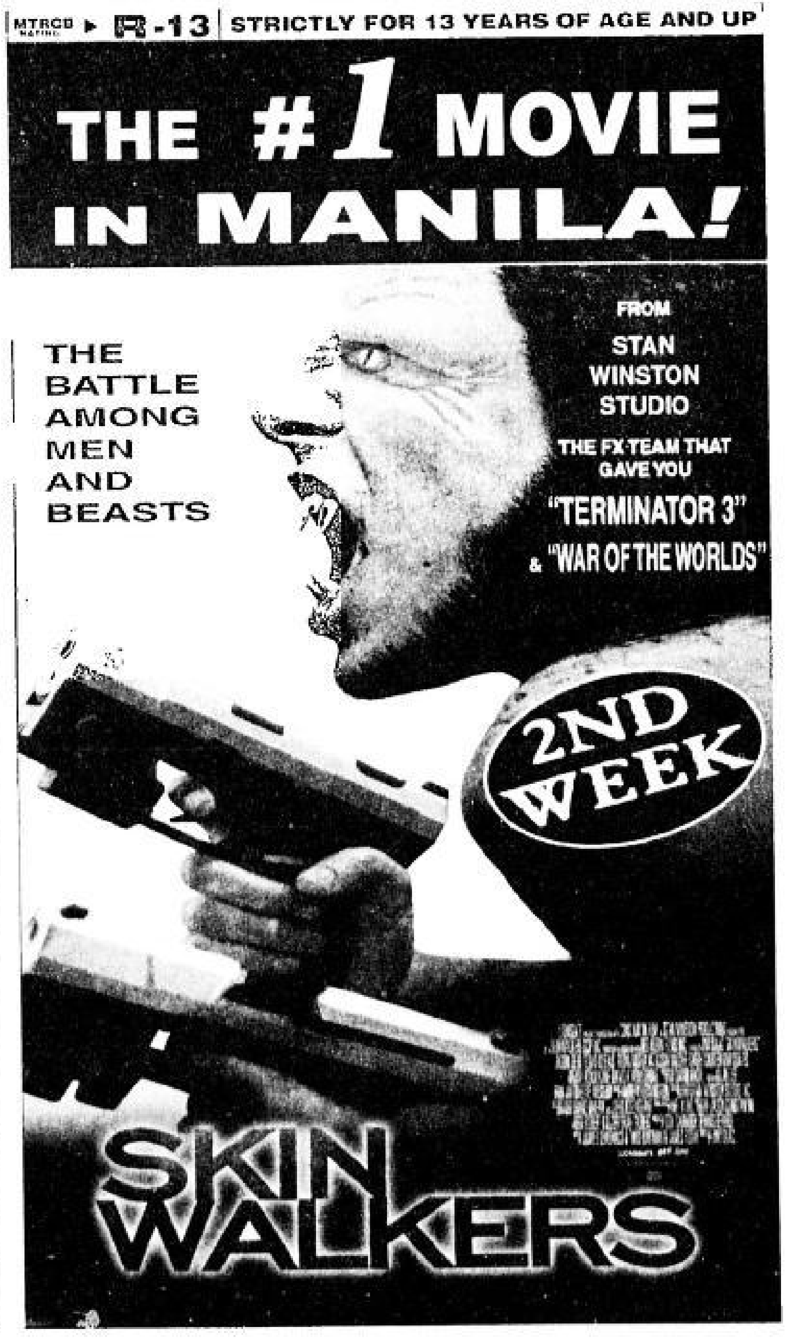
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 SKINWALKERS // CHUCK & LARRY 12:55, 3:10 // 5:20 7:45, 10:10 R-13
CINEMA 4 DISTURBIA 11:30, 1:50, 4:10 6:30, 8:50 PG-13
CINEMA 5 NANCY DREW 12:55, 3:10, 5:25 7:40, 10:00 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

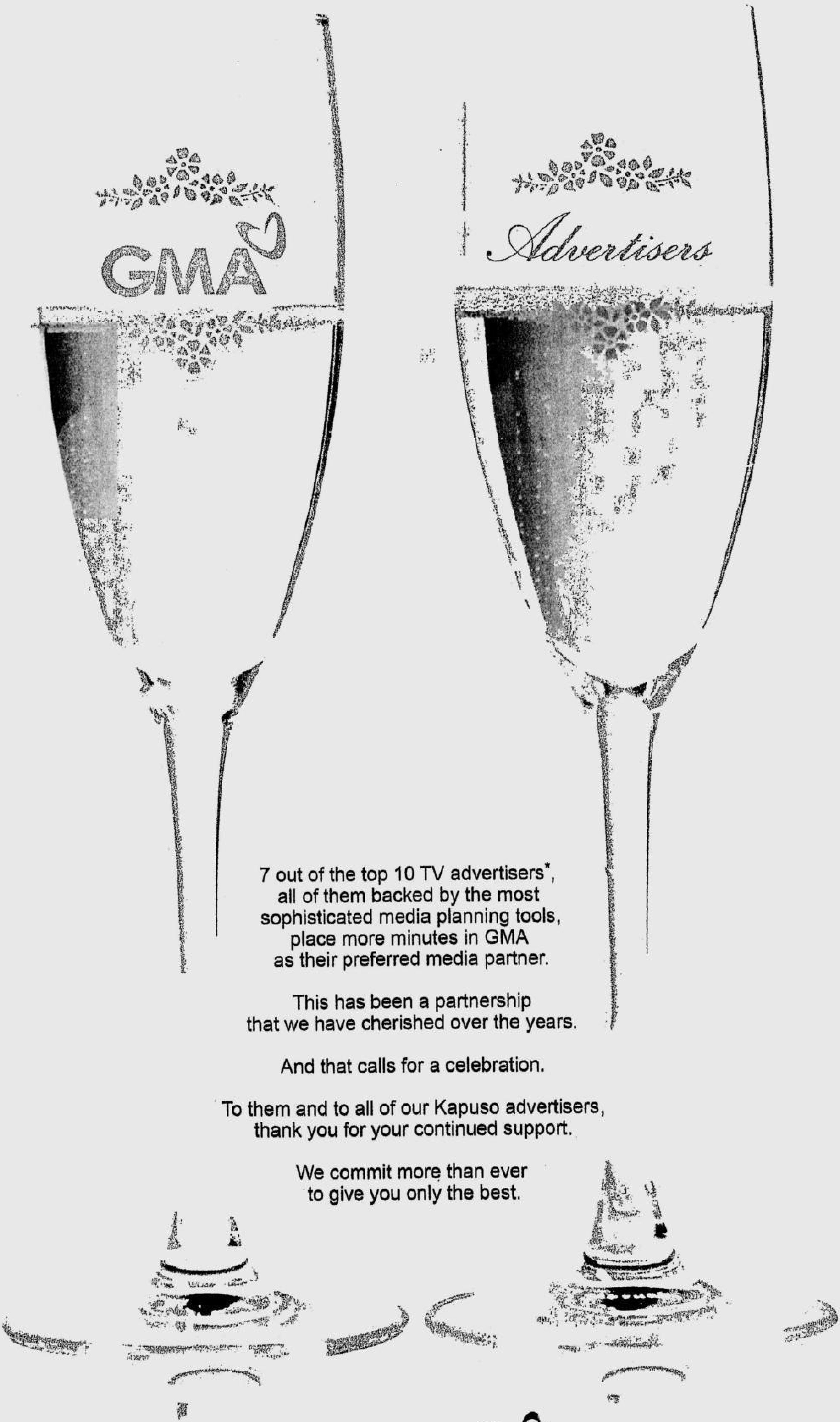
MUSIC MUSEUM	September 15, 2007	Rico J. w/ Ruffa Mae	8:00 PM
	September 22, 2007	Jett Pangan, Michael De Mesa, Ricky Davao	8:00 PM
	September 29, 2007	Sugarfree	8:00 PM
	October 08 & 09 2007	"Alamat" Stageplay	[illegible]
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	Sept. 21, 28, 2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
	Sept 12, 19, 26, 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116


MTRCB R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
THIS YEAR NIGHT TURNS TO DAY.
DAY WATCH
FROM THE VISIONARY FORCE BEHIND 'NIGHT WATCH'
NOW SHOWING


MTRCB R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
THE #1 MOVIE IN MANILA!
THE BATTLE AMONG MEN AND BEASTS
FROM STAN WINSTON STUDIO
THE FX TEAM THAT GAVE YOU "TERMINATOR 3" & "WAR OF THE WORLDS"
2ND WEEK
SKINWALKERS

Cheers to a great partnership!



7 out of the top 10 TV advertisers*,
all of them backed by the most
sophisticated media planning tools,
place more minutes in GMA
as their preferred media partner.

This has been a partnership
that we have cherished over the years.

And that calls for a celebration.

To them and to all of our Kapuso advertisers,
thank you for your continued support.

We commit more than ever
to give you only the best.

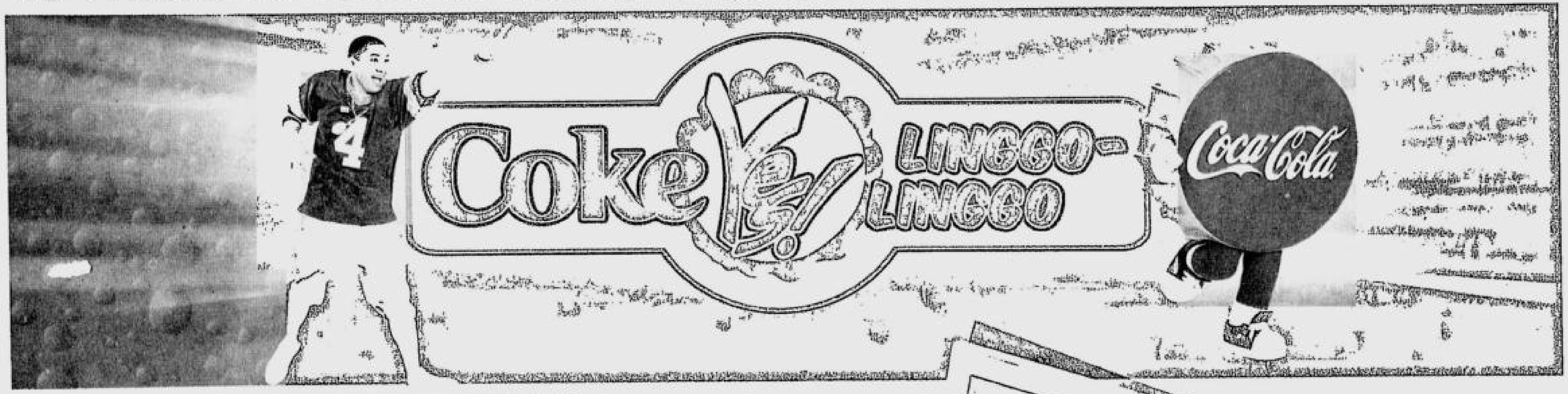
GMA

Kapuso ng bawat Pilipino

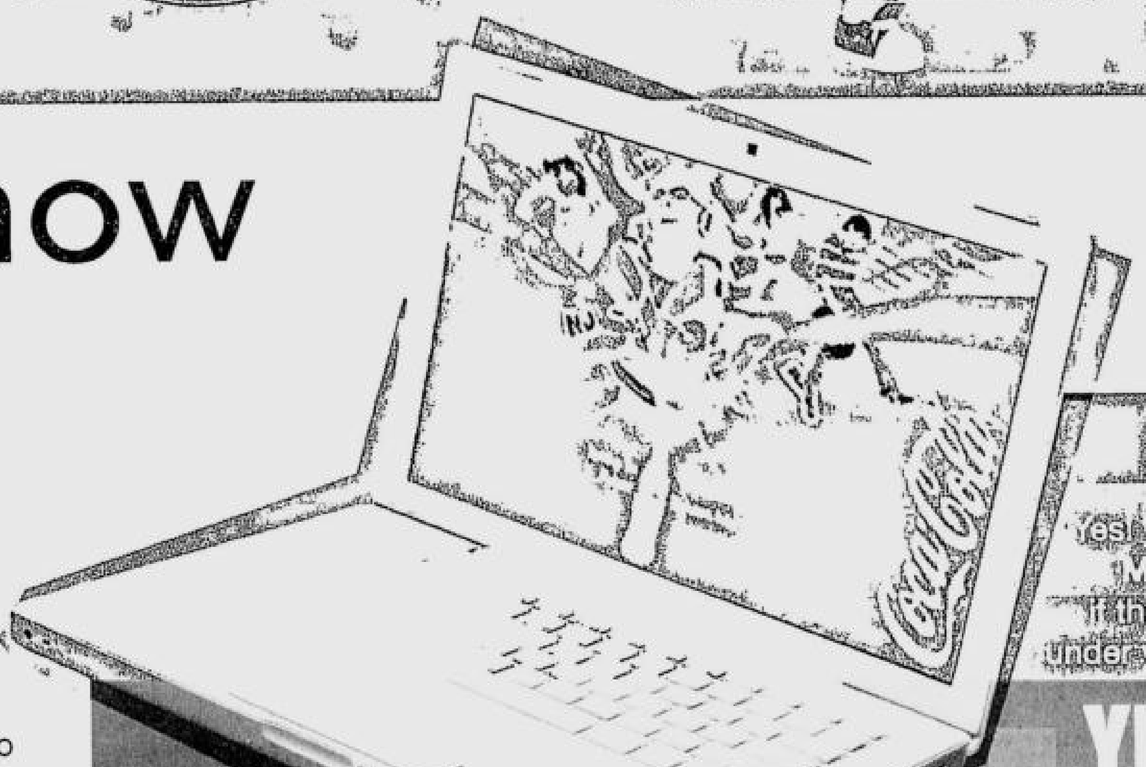
*Source: Ad Quest Top 10 Advertisers by Advertising Minutes July 7- August 10, 2007

LIFESTYLE

EXCLUSIVE THIS WEEK!



Yes Gang, now going after MacBooks!



Another week, another target for the Yes-Yes-Yo! Gang. After cellphones, iPod Nanos, PSPs, what could possibly be next for this gang of Yes! hunters? Why, only a MacBook, of course!

No wonder they are on mega-Yes! alert once again, never backing down on ANY opportunity to get their hands on this award-winning and widely-raved about piece of beautiful technology.

One *sari-sari* store owner excitedly tells this newspaper, "*Nagulat ako sa dami ng taong bumibili ng* Coke! I've never had this many customers since who knows when. *Lahat parang nag pa-*panic buying and when I asked them why, *sabi nila gusto nila ng* MacBook! *Grabe*! *May* chance *ka pala manalo ng* MacBook *'pag bumili ka ng* Coke, Sprite at Royal 8oz or 12oz!"

One bystander recounts his experience, "One morning while I was waiting for my ride to work, I suddenly saw a swarm of people rushing to get somewhere! *Parang may susugurin. 'Yun pala,* they were waiting for *Aling Dely's* store to open. They all wanted to buy bottles of Coke. MacBook *daw kasi* at stake this week."

What is it exactly about the MacBook that makes the Yes! Gang members this extra-determined? One of the hardcore techie members shares his in-depth research:

"You see, the MacBook is different from all the rest because it is the best and most advanced laptop to date. It has a built-in camera, built-in AirPort Extreme for Wi-Fi, 2GB of memory, *ang daming* cool applications, *panalo 'yong* graphics and it's really fast *kasi* Intel Core 2 Duo Processor *na, eh*. And, of course, it's a Mac!" he boasts. "You can do a lot of neat stuff when you have a MacBook—*mag*-design, *mag*-DJ using the iTunes, any kind of school project, your own films—just about everything!" he continues.

"*Kaya kami,* we will never give up! We don't stop trying to get a winning crown! We will never pass up the chance to drink Coke, get the winning Yes! message and bag that MacBook!", he says with such a resounding passion, one would think no feat is ever big enough for him, as long as there is a Coke (and a Macbook!) waiting in the finish line.

"Guess what," he continues. "When I heard the news about the MacBook last night, I came up with a plan *na. Lahat ng makita kong sari-sari* store, *bibilhan ko ng* Coke! Eh, *sa dami ba naman ng sari-sari* store *sa barangay namin, ewan ko na lang kung hindi pa dumami ang* chances *ko* to win! *Basta* excited *na 'ko*! And I will try my very best to find a winning crown!" exclaims the overwhelmed Yes Gang member. •

Yes! you win this **MacBook** if the message under your crown is:

YES, POWER ON!

YOU CAN'T SAY NO TO THESE:

- MacBook 13.3" White
- 80GB Hard Drive
- 2.0 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 1GB (2x512 MB) DDR2 SDRAM
- Supports up to 2GB Memory
- Combo Drive (DVD-ROM/CD-RW)
- Intel GMA 950 graphic processor with 64MB SDRAM
- 13.3 TFT glossy display with 1280 x 800 resolution
- Built-in AirPort Extreme 802.11n
- Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- One Firewire 400 Port
- 2 USB 2.0 Ports
- Built-in iSight Camera
- Front Row and Apple Remote
- Mini DVI with support for DVI, VGA & S-Video
- 60W MagSafe Power Adapter

All prizes can be claimed until November 29, 2007

IT'S SO EASY TO SAY YES! TO DIFFERENT PRIZES WEEKLY!

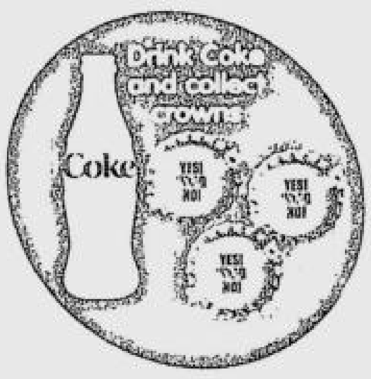
Check your crowns NOW!

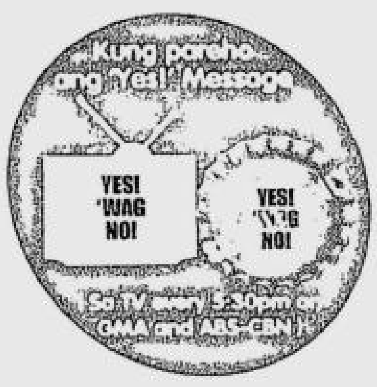
Is it your chance to say Yes! to a MacBook this week? If the message under your Coke crown is **"YES, POWER ON!"** then go ahead, with "Coke, Yes, Linggo-Linggo," say Yes to a MacBook right now!

But if non-winning crowns are all you've got at the moment, just keep thoses YESes and never ever say no! Every week, there is a different winning Yes! message, because every week there is a different prize up for grabs. Who knows, one of your crowns might make you say Yes! next week or in the coming weeks.

Still can't get over the MacBook this week? So, what's stopping you? Just buy more Coke and look under the crown for the Yes! message. If it matches the winning message on this page and on the daily 5:30pm announcements on GMA and ABS-CBN, then Yes! you're a winner! •

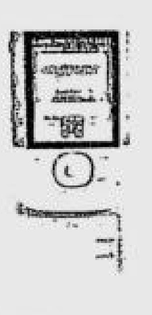
And Yes! You can also win instantly! Millions of Jollibee Meals (1-pc. Chickenjoy Meal, Jollibee Spaghetti Meal or Regular Yum Meal) to be given away under the crown.

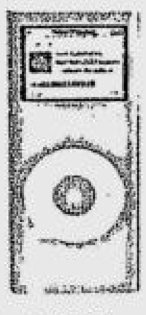
1

Drink Coke and collect crowns
Coke
YES! 'WAG NO!
YES! 'WAG NO!
YES! 'WAG NO!

2

Kung pareho ang Yes! Message
YES! 'WAG NO!
YES! 'WAG NO!
Sa TV every 5:30pm on GMA and ABS-CBN

3

Never miss a Yes! week!

YES, MAY SASAGOT SA 'YO!* =

Week 1 (August 19 - 25, 2007)

YES, PAKINGGAN MO NA 'NO!* =

Week 2 (August 26 - September 1, 2007)

YES, KAHIT SAAN DAPAT GAME!* =

Week 3 (September 2 - 8, 2007)

All winning crowns have security markings and are subject to verification and authentication by Coca-Cola representatives

For major prize redemption, please call the Coca-Cola hotlines: 813-2653 / 813-COKE (GMA) or 1-800-1-888 2653 /1-800-1-888 COKE (Provincial areas)
Jollibee meals can be claimed at any Jollibee outlet nationwide.

*Crown look may vary
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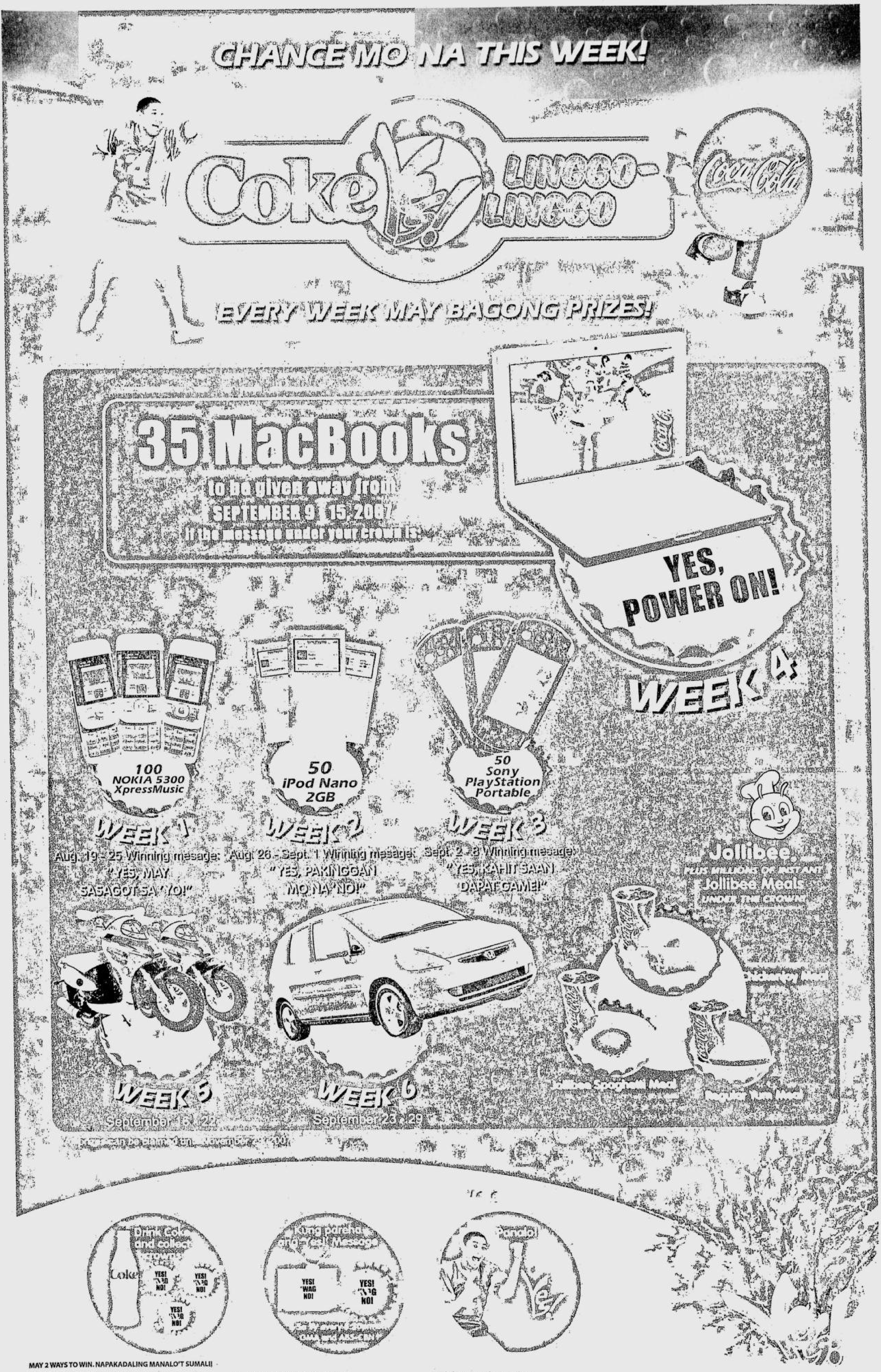
CHANCE MO NA THIS WEEK!
Coke LINGGO-LINGGO
Coca-Cola
EVERY WEEK MAY BAGONG PRIZES!
35 MacBooks
to be given away from
SEPTEMBER 9 - 15, 2007
if the message under your crown is:
YES, POWER ON!
WEEK 4
100 NOKIA 5300 XpressMusic
WEEK 1
Aug. 19 - 25 Winning mesage:
"YES, MAY SASAGOT SA 'YO!"
50 iPod Nano 2GB
WEEK 2
Aug. 26 - Sept. 1 Winning mesage:
"YES, PAKINGGAN MO NA 'NO!"
50 Sony PlayStation Portable
WEEK 3
Sept. 2 - 8 Winning mesage:
"YES, KAHIT SAAN DAPAT GAME!"
Jollibee
PLUS MILLIONS OF INSTANT Jollibee Meals UNDER THE CROWN!
WEEK 5
September 16 - 22
WEEK 6
September 23 - 29
Drink Coke and collect crowns
YES! 'WAG NO!
Kung pareho ang 'Yes!' Message
Panalo!
Yes!

MAY 2 WAYS TO WIN. NAPAKADALING MANALO'T SUMALI!

A. WEEKLY MAJOR PRIZES

1. Buy any participating Coke products (Coke, Sprite or Royal 8oz or 12oz) with specially-marked 'Yes!' Crowns
2. Look under the crown to see the 'Yes!' Message.
3. Watch for the announcements of the winning 'Yes!' Message of the week on GMA and ABS-CBN at 5:30pm daily, and on the Philippine Daily Inquirer & Inquirer Libre every Monday.
4. If the winning 'Yes!' Message of the week matches the message under the crown, consumer wins the corresponding weekly prize.
5. For instructions on how to claim the major weekly prizes, call the Coca-Cola Hotlines:

GMA 813-2653 / (813- COKE)
Provincial Areas 1-800-1-888 2653 / (1-800-1-888-COKE)

B. INSTANT JOLLIBEE FOOD PRIZES

1. Buy any participating Coke products (Coke, Sprite or Royal 8oz or 12oz) with specially-marked 'Yes!' Crowns, for a chance to win Jollibee food items instantly.
2. Look for the 'Yes!' Message under the crown.
3. If the Jollibee instant win message is under the crown, consumer wins the corresponding prize.
4. Winning crowns may be presented for verification and prizes may be claimed at any Jollibee outlet nationwide.

This is a nationwide promotion.
All prizes over P10,000 are tax free.
All winning crowns have security markings and are subject to verification and authentication by Coca-Cola representatives.
Employees of TCCEC, CCBP, Jollibee Foods Corporation, their advertising agencies, BFAD and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity and affinity as well as employees of TCCEC's and CCBP's subsidiaries, affiliates and service providers are disqualified from joining this promotion. Third party suppliers and their employees are also disqualified.
Decisions made by Coca-Cola are final.

Promo period is from August 19 to September 29, 2007.
Deadline of claiming prizes is on November 29, 2007.
*Photo may vary from actual unit.

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Coca-Cola
GMA
Coca-Cola
RIDE TO FAME

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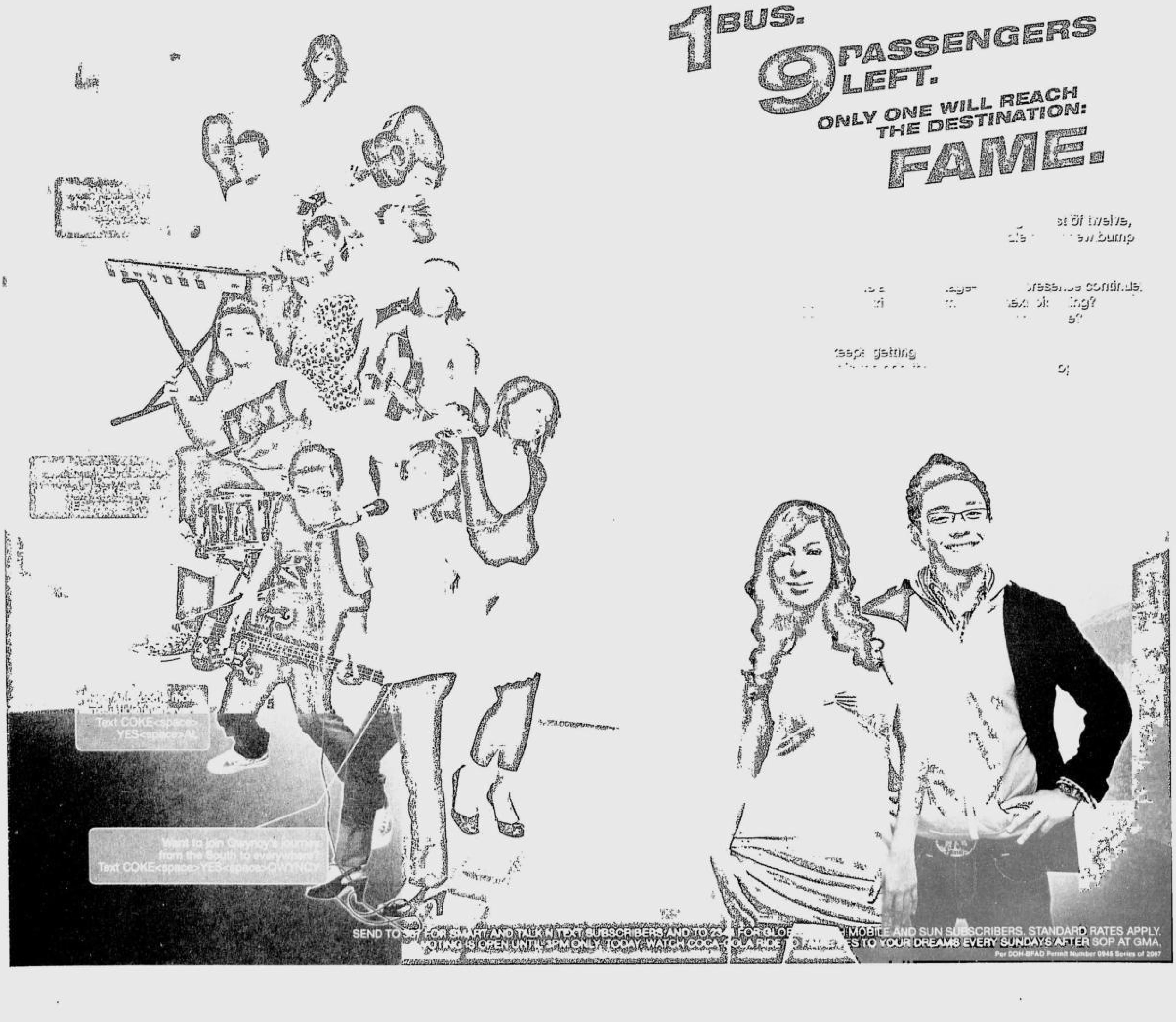
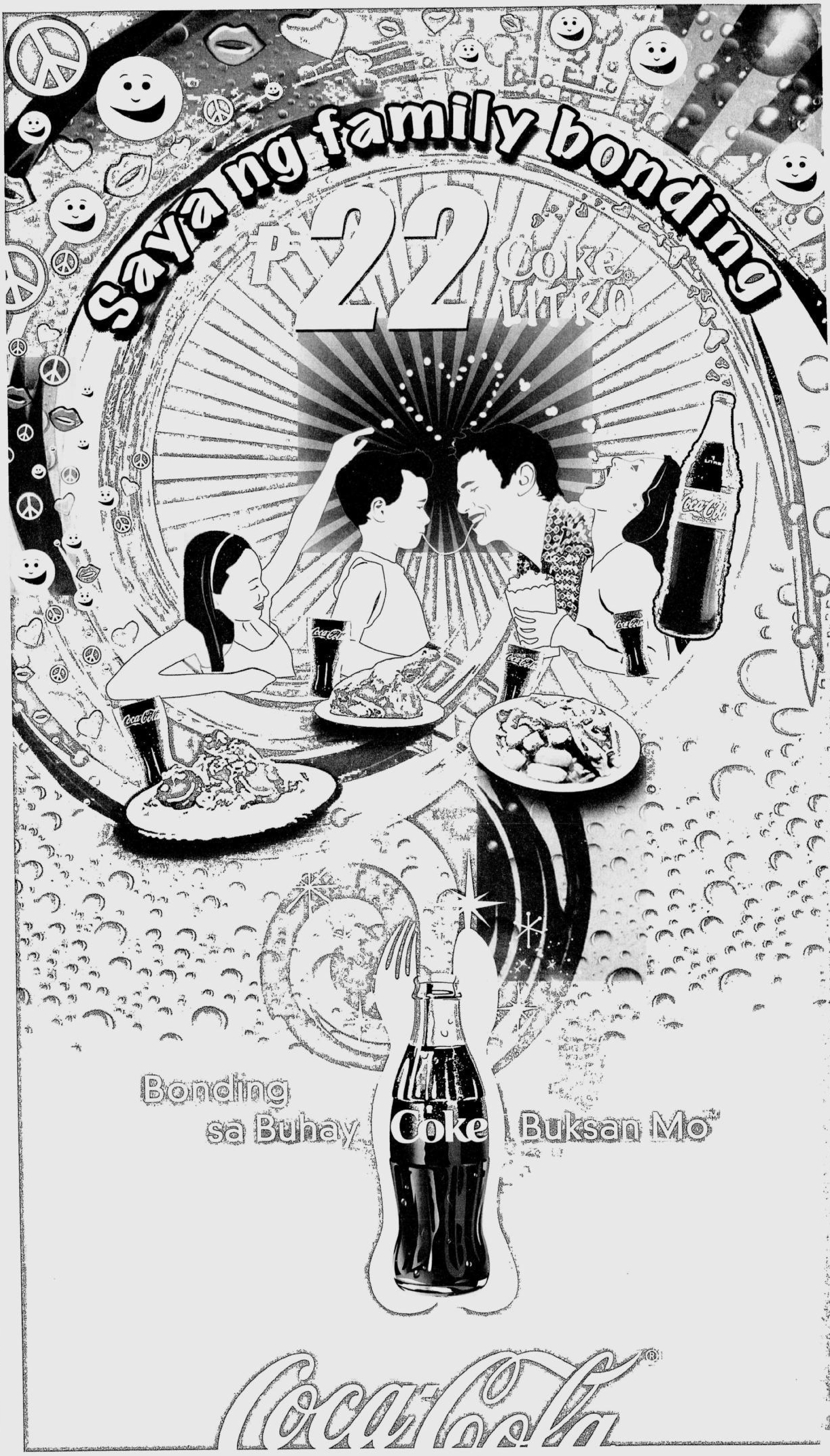

1 BUS.
9 PASSENGERS LEFT.
ONLY ONE WILL REACH THE DESTINATION:
FAME.
Text COKE<space> YES<space>AL
Want to join Gwynoy's journey from the South to everywhere? Text COKE<space> YES<space>GWYNOY
SEND TO 3 FOR SMART AND TALK N TEXT SUBSCRIBERS AND TO 23 FOR GLOBE MOBILE AND SUN SUBSCRIBERS. STANDARD RATES APPLY.
VOTING IS OPEN UNTIL 3PM ONLY TODAY. WATCH COCA-COLA RIDE TO ES TO YOUR DREAMS EVERY SUNDAYS AFTER SOP AT GMA.
Per DOH-BFAD Permit Number 0946 Series of 2007


Saya ng family bonding
₱22 Coke® LITRO
Bonding sa Buhay Coke Buksan Mo
Coca-Cola®